THE TIMES

30p

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'Why Tories are unpopular'

Thatcher blames disappointment of the middle classes

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BARONESS THATCHER delivered a punishing blow to John Major's attempts to bind the Conservative Party together last night when she scorned the "one-nation" Tory tradition and accused his Government of betraying the middle classes.

The Prime Minister's hopes of a new year truce between his party's warring factions were blown apart as his predecessor said that the party was in trouble because Tory performance and policies had not lived up to its principles.

She rejected the policy agenda of the Conservative Left and told Mr Major that a shift to the centre ground made no political sense. She condemned the pro-European wing led by Sir Edward Heath as "no-nation Conservatives".

The idea that the Conservatives were in trouble because they had moved to the right was "baloney", Lady Thatcher said in her most important speech on domestic policy since leaving office in 1990.

And she appeared to challenge directly Mr Major's warning to his Cabinet against indulging in debate about Britain's part in a European single currency. Avoiding debate about the big issues led to directionless failure, she said.

Her Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture, awaited with apprehension by her party, was more damaging than Downing Street had feared because of the starkness of her assessment of why the Conservatives are in such a difficult plight.

She told her audience to consider why people were discontented. Was it because the Government had not spent, borrowed and taxed enough, or was it because the Government had gone too far towards increasing government spending, borrowing and taxation.

She then said, in the most wounding jibe: "The answer is obvious. We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes, and all those who aspire to join the middle classes, feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government."

Ignoring Mr Major's plea for unity, she said that "splits and disagreements over important issues never did a

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party so much harm as the absence of honest, principled debate". And she poured salt in the wounds by singling out for praise the Cabinet rightwingers Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley and Michael Howard — and the leadership challenger John Redwood — without mentioning any other minister by name.

Conservative MPs, including those on the right, were staggered by her outspokenness, although party officials described the speech as a helpful restatement of the Conservative case and maintained that they were relaxed about it. Mr Major was reported to be unmoved, while Mr Redwood described the speech as a "knockout performance — star quality".

Lady Thatcher excoriated "malcontents" who claimed the Tories were in trouble because they had shifted rightwards, saying: "I am not sure what is meant by those who say that the party should return to something called one-nation Conservatism. As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would better be described as no-nation Conservatism.

"And certainly anyone who believes that salvation is to be found further away from the basic Conservative principles which prevailed in the 1980s — small government, a property-owning democracy, tax cuts, deregulation and national sovereignty — is profoundly mistaken."

Lady Thatcher launched a strong attack on Tony Blair's "new Labour", but was restrained about Mr Blair himself. She admitted for the first time that there had been differences between herself and Mr Major — about how to achieve objectives rather than the objectives themselves — and she even acknowledged that her own governments had made mistakes.

But these were eclipsed by the passion of her call for a return to the rightwing creed that sustained her governments. "The Conservative Party has problems not because our analysis has been wrong or our principles faulty," she said. "Our difficulties are due to the fact that, in certain limited but important respects, our policies and performance have not lived up to our analysis and principles. That is why the current idea, put around by some malcontents, that the Conservative Party is in trouble because it has moved to the right — and that this is what needs to be remedied — is baloney."

JAMES MORGAN



Voters "feel they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government"

Lady Thatcher's supporters said that the was trying to deliver some home truths that would help, not hinder, her party's chances of re-election. She said it was time to spell out the objectives clearly so that a re-elected Conservative Government could go further toward fulfilling them. "The attractions of opposition are greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it," she said.

"Judging from the opinion polls, opposition is where the electorate is at present inclined to send us. For a variety of reasons, I believe that this would be ill-judged. The Conservative Party still has much to offer. And from Mr Blair's new — or not so new — Labour Party there is much to fear. But we must not ignore the present discontent."

Labour seized on the speech as further evidence of Tory disunity. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Margaret Thatcher has taken the Prime Minister prisoner. Lady Thatcher has deliberately turned her back on one-nation Tories, and claimed John Major's agreement with her broad analysis. It is now up to him to say whether he sees himself in the tradition of Thatcher and Keith Joseph or the one-nation tradition of Disraeli and Macleod."

Ancient backing group for the same old song

BY MATTHEW PARRIS

You always know what Margaret Thatcher means. Her assertions are unequivocal, her equivocations are pointed and her silences thunder. She has always believed the same things, she always says the same things, and she said them again yesterday.

She was saying them to a curious crowd. The small room contained, as it were, a great heritage collection, broken up in an untimely way some six years ago and scattered to the four corners of the globe, now recollected in the presence of its erstwhile curator. This was a regathering of the Thatcher diaspora.

Elderly people who were young when Keith Joseph was young, the middle-aged, to whom the baroness was the central political memory, and younger men and women for whom she is the mascot and Michael Portillo the leader-in-waiting were there. He, too, was there, impassive as she praised him.

She praised Mr Redwood, too. She praised Michael Howard and Peter Lilley. She — well — *mentioned* the Prime Minister, but not quite by name.

With age comes a widening and deepening of the sources for which Lady Thatcher assumes philosophical, even spiritual, authority. Once it was Keith Joseph. He persuaded her to include Hayek. Later, Ronald Reagan joined the club. Churchill was increasingly mentioned.

But in yesterday's speech

Continued on page 2, col 4

Cannabis worth £55m is seized

Shots were fired yesterday as police and customs officers seized 18 tonnes of cannabis worth £55 million at Erith, southeast London.

The haul, Britain's biggest, was discovered during a search of a container which had arrived at Felixstowe on January 5. Seven people have been arrested.

£1,000 bonuses

More than 3½ million savers and borrowers with the Woolwich Building Society stand to receive bonus payouts worth an average of £1,000 when it becomes a stock market company next year. Only those with the company before December 31 last will benefit. Page 21

England win

England's cricketers overcame the distraction of a floodlight failure to win the second one-day international against South Africa by five wickets. Graham Thorpe was unbeaten on 72. Page 40

Internet Times

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Mitterrand families unite

FROM KATE MUIR IN PARIS

THE two families of François Mitterrand — one official and the other clandestine — were united for the first time at his funeral yesterday, in accordance with his last wishes.

Anne Pingeot, the former French President's mistress, and their daughter Mazarine, stood in mourning alongside Danielle Mitterrand, her two sons and grandchildren.

In their first public appearance together, M Mitterrand's widow, his mistress and their children accompanied the coffin in a military plane from Paris to the air base at Cognac, near his birthplace of Jarnac.

The procession through Jarnac to the Church of St Pierre was led by Mme Mitterrand, in black with a white scarf. She held the arm of one son, Jean-Christophe, and was followed by the other, Gilbert. Behind came Mme Pingeot, her face hidden by a black veil, arm-in-arm with Mazarine.

The families, who had led quite separate lives with M Mitterrand, were united in his loss. The implications of this public acknowledgment were probably far from their thoughts, but the death of her father has turned Mazarine from an almost unknown student at the Sorbonne into a public figure.



Daughter Mazarine: *turned into public figure*

Her strong resemblance, at 21, to her father in his youth was noted by those who first saw them together in photographs in *Paris Match* two years ago. French privacy laws and a certain collusion among journalists prevented details of the former President's best-known secret from leaking out earlier, although he did admit in 1984 to having an illegitimate daughter.

Mme Pingeot is a curator of sculpture at the Musée D'Orsay in Paris. After M Mitterrand became President, he cited security reasons and moved Mazarine and her mother to a government apartment on the Quai Branly near the Eiffel Tower, where he was a regular visitor. Mme Mitterrand remained at their apartment on the Rue du Bièvre, also on the Left Bank, where M Mitterrand was said to come for Saturday lunch and Sunday dinner.

Even on country weekends, M Mitterrand distributed his time, taking Mazarine to the presidential château outside Paris. His country house at Latche was the site for official family gatherings with his sons and grandchildren.

Separate farewells, page 10
Photograph, page 20

Police hold fan of Princess

BY JOANNA BALE

BERNARD QUINN, an obsessed fan of the Princess Royal, was arrested in Liverpool last night 25 minutes before she was due to attend an official engagement in the city.

The Princess was visiting St Nicholas's church in Tithebarn Street at 5pm to meet members of a victim support scheme. Her arrival passed without incident but police disclosed later that Quinn, 53, from Weston-super-Mare, had been arrested nearby shortly before.

He was charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and is due to appear before Liverpool City Magistrates Court today. He was being held in custody overnight. Police had staged a massive security operation during the visit amid fears for the safety of the Princess.

Britain squeezes juice concession out of EU

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS were spared a 30p-a-litre rise in the price of freshly squeezed orange juice last night after the European Commission answered a government appeal to cut the cost of imported oranges.

The move will help to safeguard hundreds of jobs and ensure the continuation of a peculiarly British habit because no one else in the EU has developed a freshly squeezed orange juice industry. The business is worth £12 million in the UK and directly employs 600 people, but it came under threat when new world trade accord tariffs were placed on imported fruit to protect EU growers.

Caught in the trap was the Late Valencia orange — unavailable in Europe between December and April — but the only fruit which meets exacting British standards for freshly-squeezed juice. Britain imports 67,500 tonnes of juicing oranges a year, all but 7,500 tonnes from outside the EU.

The concession to Britain, by far the biggest market for fresh juice in Europe, is technically valid only until March 31, but negotiators are confident they will be able to get it extended.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, hailed the reprieve. He said the increase would have sounded the death knell for an innovative UK industry. "The battle is not yet over and we must now work for a permanent solution."

Without the concession the average shop price of fresh orange juice would have gone up from £2.39 to £2.69 a litre next month.

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Defiant Lilley presses ahead with asylum benefit cut


Lilley: said changes were fair and necessary

BY RICHARD FORD AND JILL SHERMAN

PETER LILLEY defied the Government's own advisers on social security last night by pressing ahead with plans to cut benefits paid to asylum seekers.

In a highly critical report, the Social Security Advisory Committee rejected government estimates of £200 million savings and recommended that the plans be ditched. The 14-member body said the changes were potentially racially divisive and risked making destitute "many people who are genuinely seeking refuge in this country, among whom may be numbered some of the most vulnerable and defenceless in our society".

But the Social Security Secretary insisted on going ahead with the new rules, which will affect up to 50,000 people a year seeking refuge in Britain.

He argued that 90 per cent of those seeking asylum had their claims refused and said the new measures, which will come into effect on February 5, were "fair and necessary". He pointed out that 70 per cent of all asylum claims were made by people who entered Britain as tourists, students or businessmen. "No responsible government could ignore this growing misuse of taxpayers' money," he said.

Giving a statement in the Commons, Mr Lilley agreed to make one key concession by allowing those who had submitted claims for asylum or had appealed against rejection since last October to continue to receive benefit. About 13,000 people in this category will still be able to receive social security payments unless or until their claim or appeal is rejected.

The concession, which was condemned by the Tory Right, could cost the Government up to £30 million in the first year. The new rules do not apply to those who enter the country as refugees, declaring themselves as asylum seekers at the point of entry.

Mr Lilley also said the Government would help councils with extra costs arising under homelessness legislation or the Children Act, although he refused to give a figure. The move follows a decision by two London boroughs, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham, to seek judicial review over the plans, which they claimed would cost them millions of pounds.

Labour immediately attacked Mr Lilley's decision to ignore the committee's report and questioned whether any savings would be made once local councils had been bailed out. "The committee produced the most critical report in its history on these proposals," said Keith Bradley, MP for Manchester Withington. "These regulations are inhumane and unjust. They will force thousands of asylum seekers onto the streets when their housing benefit and income support is withdrawn."

Tory MPs were also concerned about the impact of the new laws on local authorities. Peter Brooke, Tory MP for City of London and Westminster South, said: "Nothing could do more harm in terms of relations between the host community and asylum seekers if the cost is simply transferred to council tax payers."

The committee, chaired by Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, said the changes would involve considerable administrative costs, making it unlikely that the projected £200 million savings would be achieved. The solution did not lie in the social security system but in faster and more efficient asylum procedures.

The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture said the changes would be "one more nail in the coffin for asylum seekers and refugees". Helen Bamber of the foundation said it was "the cruellest form of hypocrisy".

The Right praises rallying call but Left decries timing

Thatcher attack on Brussels reopens old party wounds

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND ALICE THOMSON

BARONESS THATCHER'S call for her party to revert to her radical agenda delighted disciples on the Tory Right last night while infuriating the pro-Europeans of the Left.

Loyalist MPs were plunged into gloom as they braced themselves for another round of infighting triggered by the former Prime Minister's repudiation of John Major's attempts to keep peace in the party.

Her dismissal of the pro-European one-nation wing as "No nation Conservatism" sparked the greatest anger, with its devotees branding her a treacherous has-been and claiming that her "mischief-making" showed how out of touch she had become.

Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, accused her of making a "virtue out of disloyalty". He declared: "It's unbecoming of Lady Thatcher to use her conscience not as a guide but as her accomplice. She will never be forgiven."

Sir John Gorst, MP for Hendon North, said: "While she may be talking in half-truths, I doubt whether a speech from the grave was very wise. She is — politically speaking — in the grave. I think it's unhelpful at the present time when everyone agrees that parties that are involved in internal arguments are not very attractive to the electorate."

Peter Luff, another pro-European, said that Lady Thatcher might be urging debate now, but she never tolerated dissent when she was leader.

Rightwingers pressing Mr Major to take a tougher line towards Europe by ruling out a single currency, or at least offering a referendum on it, said they were delighted by her words.

One of the Right's standard-bearers said her Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies in the City of London was "dynamite" for its thinly veiled criticism of Mr Major's leadership style and policies. "She believes that to unite a party you lead it in a clear direction," he said.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a Eurosceptic and former minister, said that Lady Thatcher would get a lot of support in the country for her views. "The Tory party has to regain the patriotic working-class vote.

Labour surge

Labour has opened up a huge lead in the opinion polls. A Gallup survey for *The Daily Telegraph* today puts Labour on 60.5 per cent, 39.5 points ahead of the Tories on 21 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats on 14.5 per cent.

To do that we need a clear policy on Europe and that means the promise of a referendum.

"I too don't think we have gone too far to the Right. The massive increase in expenditure by this Government has caused the increase in taxation, which has meant that many former middle-class supporters of our party have turned their backs on us."

David Shaw, MP for Dover, said: "No one can find fault with what she says. People will find this very easy to support."

John Redwood, who unsuccessfully challenged Mr Major in the summer and who was present at the lecture, said that Lady Thatcher had delivered a "very powerful speech" and denied loyalist claims that the timing was unhelpful.

He said: "The Tories have everything to be proud of. She is right that the idea of one-nation politics has now been abused. We all wish for a prosperous nation that brings people together. But the one-nation concept has been hijacked by certain people to support Euro-federalism. Her speech was star quality."

Kenneth Baker said: "Margaret Thatcher is one of the strongest assets of the Tory party even now. She reminded us of the success of the Tories in the Eighties and told the next generation that they can't get success in the Nineties by abandoning it."

Labour leaders were delighted by Lady Thatcher's criticisms of the Government and the spectacle of fresh Tory feuding. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Margaret Thatcher has taken the Prime Minister prisoner. Lady Thatcher has deliberately turned her back on one-nation Tories, and claimed John Major's agreement with her broad analysis.

"It is now up to him to say whether he sees himself in the tradition of Thatcher and Keith Joseph or the one-nation tradition of Disraeli and Macleod, which she has dismissed with contempt."

Charles Kennedy, for the Liberal Democrats, said: "Lady Thatcher, in a no-holds barred attack on Europe and one-nation Conservatism, is further blowing apart any lingering hope of Tory unity."

Leading article, page 17

FOR


John Redwood

AGAINST


Jerry Hayes


David Shaw


Sir John Gorst


Rhodes Boyson


Peter Luff

Same old song

Continued from page 1

"the Board" (as we might call it) of early Thatcherites was ambitiously extended. Kipling has arrived. Gladstone appears to have been a budding Thatcherite. Cobden and Bright were mentioned; Hume and Locke also joined the fan club. Milton, it seems, would have approved. So would Erasmus and Montaigne.

Warming to her theme (and quoting Hayek) the baroness took an astonishing leap into ancient history, to discover that Cicero, Tacitus, Pericles and Thucydides only failed to call themselves Thatcherites because they had not yet heard of Lady Thatcher.

Funny. I used to working her office in the late 70s. But I never remember her mentioning Thucydides.

As the friendly host from history expands, so does the enemy. Yesterday Lady Thatcher found time for a swipe at Ted Heath (not mentioned by name, of course), Nigel Lawson (not named), the whole of Sweden, Christian democracy, most of Europe, Neil Kinnock and (by implication) Disraeli.

Lady Thatcher ages, but not fast or much. Her voice deepens a little and her face thins. The crowd that used to support her when Keith Joseph was ascendant in the 70s was small but devout, as were the Corinthians to Paul. In the 80s, the crowd swelled enormously and became a mob.

Last night we were back to the Corinthians again. But she was the same, laying down the Epistle as ever, the same Epistle.

Funding pledge as peers debate divorce

BY FRANCES GIBB AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Lord Chancellor, in an attempt to stifle opposition to his controversial divorce reforms, said yesterday that more government funds would be provided to cut the rate of marriage breakdown.

As the Lords began to consider more than 200 amendments to the Family Law Bill on the first day of its committee stage, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who has responsibility for funding marriage guidance, underlined his personal commitment to the institution of marriage.

He said new funds would go to projects that could help reduce the rate and costs of marriage breakdown. In particular, they might have to be directed at marriage preparation projects and encouraging people to seek help before their problems became a crisis.

Lord Mackay is under fire from peers who say the Bill, which removes the concept of fault from divorce law, is undermining marriage. Many of his critics want the proposed time limit of 12 months before divorce can be granted increased to 18 months. If Lord Mackay is forced to lengthen the one-year limit, he could run into opposition from Labour who would argue that it is against the interests of children to lock them into an unhappy marriage.

Lord Mackay has also argued that the longer the period before divorce, the greater the number of exceptions there may have to be, because of the potential hardship to children. The more exceptions, the more the general principle is undermined. At present, 75 per cent of divorcing couples obtain a "quickie" divorce in six months or less.

Lord Mackay told the Lords that, despite some reports, he remained committed to the 12 months' reflection period. "The position is that the Government's policy on the period remains at one year." He also denied that the Bill said no one was to blame for a divorce. "There is no suggestion that there is no fault. But there is a suggestion that it is not a sound basis for a divorce law."

Moving the first amendment to the Bill last night, Lord Stallard, a former Labour MP, called for the Bill to support the institution of marriage, to ensure that all practicable steps are taken to prevent the breakdown of marriage, to minimise the bitterness and hostility between the parties and reduce the trauma for children. He said: "This Bill does little in its present form to support the institution of marriage. This Bill does make divorce easier for many people and that is what is worrying us."

Law Report, page 31

Gang steals £5m in raid on post office

An armed gang escaped with £5 million from a post office after one of the raiders had approached a mail worker in Hastings, East Sussex, showed him a photograph of his family and convinced him they were being held captive, a police spokesman said last night. The worker was forced to help the gang to gain access through a rear entrance of the main Hastings Post Office in Cambridge Road on Wednesday night.

Once inside, four other masked men, two with shotguns and one with a handgun, tied up three members of staff working there. Two were secured with handcuffs. In 20 minutes the thieves bundled up £5 million which had been intended to pay out pensions and social security benefits yesterday. They escaped in a light-coloured Luton van. After the alarm was raised police discovered that the hostage threat had been a calculated bluff.

Intelligence switch

Colin Budd, 50, the Chef de Cabinet to Sir Leon Brittan at the European Commission, is returning to London as the next chairman of the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee and head of the Cabinet Office overseas and defence policy secretariat. Mr Budd, who has served in Bonn, The Hague, Islamabad and Warsaw, replaces Paul Lever, another senior diplomat who has been promoted to deputy under-secretary for European affairs.

Winter time wrangle

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, promised to "bury" a backbench Tory Bill to create longer winter afternoons. In a move that has infuriated many Conservative MPs in southern England, Mr Forsyth made clear that he would do everything in his power to kill the Bill to harmonise hours in Britain with those in the rest of the European Union. He says it would mean later winter dawns in Scotland and is "totally unnecessary".

Baring Foundation

The Baring Foundation, the charitable arm of the Barings financial empire, has announced its first grants programme since the bank's collapse nearly a year ago cut off its main source of income. The foundation, which was one of Britain's top ten grant-making trusts, has been forced to reduce its activities and will now concentrate on funding community organisations. It will make grants of up to £1.5 million this year, compared with £16.4 million in 1994.

Police question two

Two men were being questioned last night about the murder of a police garage-hand, left tied to his bed for ten days by intruders. Detectives investigating the death of Alan Holmes, 53, arrested the men in Kentish Town, north London, near the victim's home in Camden Town. Mr Holmes was beaten to force him to disclose his bank card Pin numbers. Police appealed for help in tracing his driving licence, passport and two silver frames.

Jurors stay out again

The Maxwell trial jury was sent to a hotel for a fourth night after failing to reach unanimous verdicts. When the seven women and five men returned to the Old Bailey courtroom yesterday afternoon, Lord Justice Phillips told them that if they had not reached verdicts by Saturday, they would have Sunday off. Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell aide, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension funds.

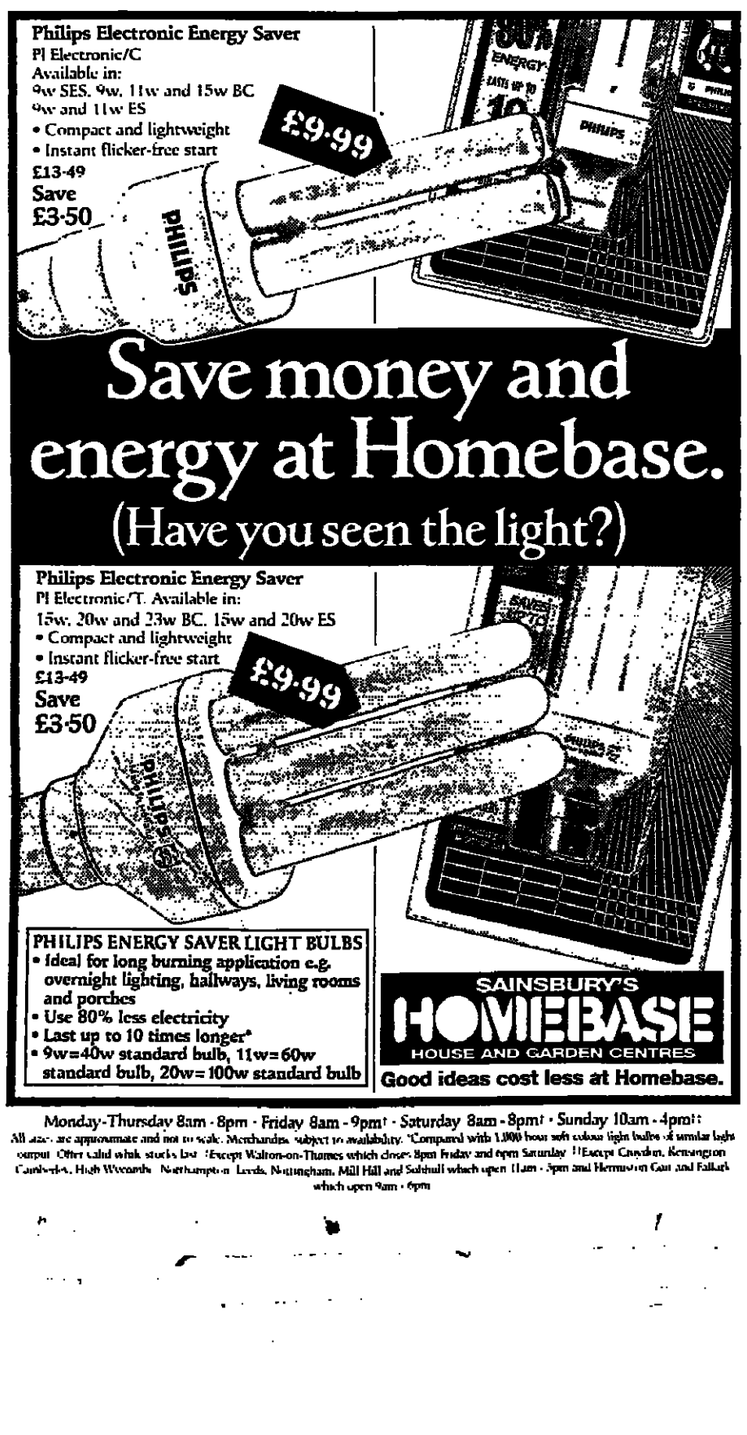
School wounding charge

A boy aged 14 was charged with conspiracy to wound another teenager after being arrested by police investigating the death of the headmaster Philip Lawrence. A 15-year-old boy has been charged with the murder of Mr Lawrence and assaulting a pupil outside their London school.

☐ Four teenagers were arrested yesterday by police investigating the stabbing last year of John Mills, husband of Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Internet essay warning

Universities told students yesterday they would be disciplined for plagiarism if they copy high-scoring essays placed on the Internet. Gradnet (UK), of Aughton, Lancashire, is charging £2 for essays, which can be sent on disc or via e-mail. It has advertised in student magazines that it will also pay students £10 for the work it sends out, which must have received a mark of more than 60 per cent, an upper-second grade.



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IRA considers destroying weapons in front of an independent witness

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL ANCRAM, the Northern Ireland Minister, sounded an upbeat note yesterday after Sinn Fein said that the IRA might be prepared to destroy its weapons in the presence of an independent witness.

As John Major met the former US senator George Mitchell, the chairman of the international commission, and two fellow commission members at Downing Street last night, government officials said there was room for encouragement in Sinn Fein's submission.

Amid fresh hopes that the proposal could help to overcome the deadlock in the peace process, Dublin said it was encouraged by the suggestion in Sinn Fein's submission to the Mitchell commission on decommissioning. Mr Ancram said: "I have read what was published with interest. We have made it clear all along that we are looking for weapons to be taken out of commission permanently."

The Prime Minister's talks with the three-man commission ended after 75 minutes, with Mr Mitchell saying he expected his report would be ready on time next Thursday. Downing Street said the men had enjoyed a "useful and productive exchange". Senator Mitchell underlined the importance of the recent Northern Ireland murders in his commmission's discussions. He said: "We hope we can contribute to a process where such actions will no longer occur." He refused to speculate whether the Sinn Fein move would bring the conclusion of the peace process any closer.

The commission is to hold talks today with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, and over the weekend with Unionist MPs and loyalist representatives. Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links to the Ulster Defence Association, described Sinn Fein's proposal as realistic. He said: "The option of paramilitary organisations decommissioning their weapons takes away difficulties, particularly within the republican camp, of handing over their weapons to the British or Irish Governments."

At the meeting Mr Ancram expressed unease about allowing the IRA to destroy its own arms because of "potentially significant practical and legal difficulties, including problems of verification and the risk to public safety". However, Sinn Fein has acknowledged his concerns by accepting that such a process would have to be verified independently.

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Biologists captured in remote village

Soldiers search jungle for kidnapped Britons

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

TROOPS were sent into the Indonesian jungle yesterday to rescue four British biologists kidnapped by separatist guerrillas.

Two British diplomats also arrived in the mountainous province of Irian Jaya, regarded as one of the most inhospitable, primitive and least charted, to negotiate the release of the four Cambridge graduates.

They were among 24 people, seven Westerners and 17 Indonesians, seized by armed members of the Free Papua Movement. The group said the abductions were part of a campaign to escape Indonesian rule.

The Britons are members of a research expedition called Lorentz 95 and were studying rare flora and fauna and how the Nduga tribe uses the wildlife. They had been staying with tribes that only recently emerged from the Stone Age, and were captured by the guerrillas late on Monday night at their base in Mapunduma village in the Baliem Valley.



Oates: was studying wildlife and tribes

The missing Britons are Daniel Start, 21, from London Bill Oates, 22, from Jedburgh, Borders, Anna McIvor, 21, from Bournemouth, and Annette van der Kolk, 21, from Fleet, Hampshire. A German and two Dutchmen were also taken hostage.

Susan McIvor, Anna's mother, spoke of her concern last night. "There are all sorts of fears at this stage."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We do not want to speculate about the level of danger they are in. The fact they have been taken and are being held is a cause for concern. We want them to be released as quickly as possible."

The biologists, who graduated last summer, organised a rave party in Cambridge to raise some of the £20,000 cost of the three-month expedition. They also raised £3,000 by coming second in a conservation award.

Tutors and friends were confident the quartet would stand up well to their circumstances. Natalie Baron, 20, a fellow student, said: "To have undertaken this kind of project in the first place you have got to be intrepid. You have got to be fairly self-sufficient." Dr Ken Riley, senior tutor at Clare College, where Mr Oates studied, said: "I don't know if anybody can be expected to cope well in this sort of situation, but if I was choosing anyone, it would be Bill."

The local news agency, Antara, reported that the Indonesian authorities have sent 300 troops to mount a rescue attempt. Lieutenant-Colonel Maulud Hidayat, Irian Jaya military spokesman, said he had not received any ransom demand. "We are searching for them with all efforts and all the equipment we have."

Groups such as the World Wide Fund for Nature are working with local contacts to reassure the indigenous population that the kidnapped Britons were working on their behalf.

Russell Betts, WWF spokesman in Jakarta, said: "We are trying to get the message out that what our people are doing is in their interests. We are trying with our research to make sure in the area that tribal rights and traditional ways with which the people interact with nature are respected."

A spokesman for the Indonesian Biological Science Club, which co-sponsored the venture, said: "We and the WWF are deeply concerned about the safety and security of our colleagues who have been kidnappd, and stand ready to work fully with the military to secure their safe release. We urge the relevant authorities to do everything in their power to secure the safe release of our colleagues."

The Baliem Valley, first seen by Westerners in 1938, is home to 100,000 tribespeople who are famed for their warrior tradition. Some travellers say, however, that they are essentially a gentle race and that visitors are accorded a warm welcome.

The Free Papua Movement have been conducting low-level armed resistance since 1965, two years after Indonesia annexed the region. The people of West Papua, named Irian Jaya by Indonesia, want to ally themselves with neighbouring Papua New Guinea, and believe their plight has been ignored by the international community.

The Free Papua Movement claims 43,000 Papuans have been killed by the Indonesian army since 1977, and now believes that only radical action can draw attention to the people's plight. The guerrillas are still holding high school two students kidnapped last November in Jayapura, the capital of Irian Jaya. The military authorities rejected a ransom demand.

Plunder and wonder on land that time forgot

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

IRIAN JAYA is so remote that anthropologists are still discovering new tribes. The province, which borders Papua New Guinea, is one of the last wildernesses on Earth.

The area, two degrees south of the equator, has mountain glaciers, rain forest, swamps, mangroves and coral reefs. Its people speak 700 languages. Tribesmen wearing bird of paradise feathers in their head-dresses and penis gourds barter two or three pigs for a new wife and hunt birds with arrows and spears. Cannibalism was abandoned only within living memory.

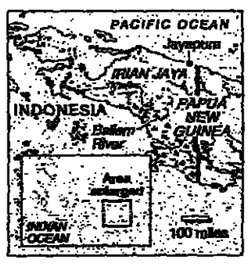
A proposed Lorentz nature reserve, which the World Wide Fund for Nature wants to be a world heritage site, is home to an array of birds of paradise, tree kangaroos and saltwater crocodiles. The quest for preservation has become more urgent as mass migration, "slash and burn" agriculture and pollution threaten the wilderness.

The WWF has charted 56 areas of outstanding ecological importance in the region; ten of which have been recognised by the Indonesian Government.

A race is on to exploit the rich mineral deposits of the province. It has gold, copper and oil. The rain forests have already attracted logging companies and illegal fish factories operate in the rich waters.



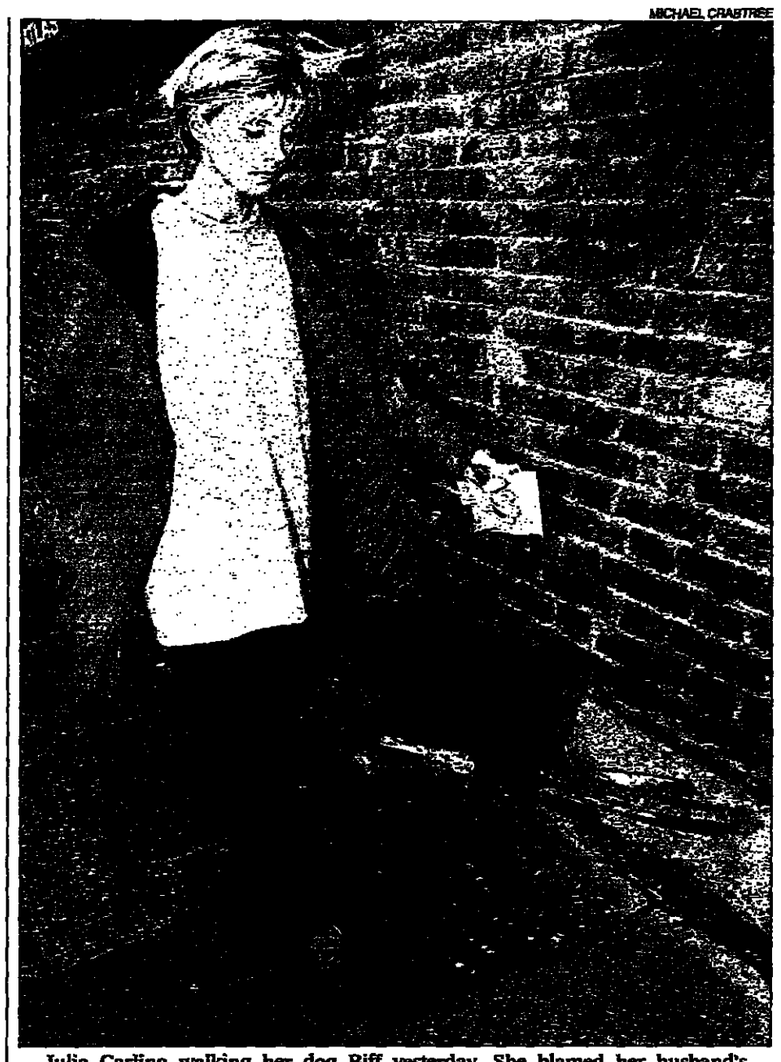
Dani tribesmen in the Baliem Valley at a ceremony to divide a dead man's wealth



Peter Ramshaw, head of the WWF's Asia project office, said biologists have been fascinated by Irian Jaya since it was described by Charles Darwin's contemporary, Alfred Wallace. "The main reason it has remained so untouched is it has only a small population, about one and a half million. It is twice the size of Britain yet has only the same number of roads of a small London suburb. It is very much under threat."

The tribespeople are Melanesian, and related to the Pacific islanders in the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

In recent years they have been threatened by Indonesia's policy of populating the island with migrants from Java. Today there are more newcomers than indigenous tribespeople.



MICHAEL CRABTREE

Julia Carling walking her dog Biff yesterday. She blamed her husband's friendship with the Princess of Wales for the failure of their 1994 marriage, below



Carlings call in the divorce lawyers after rift

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE marriage of Will Carling, the England rugby captain, and his wife Julia is to end after just 15 months together. The couple, who separated last September, have asked their lawyers to begin discussions about a divorce settlement at a meeting next week.

Mrs Carling, 30, who presents a daytime television show, has blamed her husband's friendship with the Princess of Wales for her marriage problems. But Mr Carling, 30, said his relationship with the Princess was entirely innocent.

Hugh Young, a specialist in matrimonial law who is representing Mr Carling, said he could not foresee any difficulties in ending the marriage. "It's a sad business but there are no children and it was a short marriage.

"Apart from the personalities involved, I can't see that it would be of any great interest." Mr Young, who is the family law partner at Freeth Cartwright Hunt Dickins, added: "I am not aware of any third party being involved at all."

Mr Young is now arranging a meeting with Alan Kaufman, Mrs Carling's lawyer, for next week. "My instructions are to meet her solicitor to see what his client has to say about the marriage and the future. That would mean discussing some kind of settlement," he said.

Mr Kaufman, of Forsyte, Saunders, Kerman, a firm of London solicitors, said yesterday: "Myself and my firm have been instructed by Julia in connection with the breakdown of her marriage."

Since the Carlings have been separated for just four months, a "quickie" divorce could take place only on the grounds of adultery, unreasonable behaviour, or desertion. An alternative strategy could be to live apart for another 20 months.

Mrs Carling, who is still living in the marital home in Putney, southwest London, took the couple's labrador for a walk yesterday but refused to comment.

Man drives body to police station

BY JOANNA BALE

POLICE arrested a man yesterday after he drove into their yard of their station and said he had the body of a murdered woman in his car.

Detectives rushed outside and found the dead woman propped up in the front passenger seat of a Volvo. She had allegedly been strangled, although no cause of death will be established until a post-mortem examination is held. Police confirmed last night that they were holding a 30-year-old man in custody in connection with the murder of a 27-year-old woman.

Six hours earlier police at Slough Police Station in Berkshire had received a 999 call in which the caller alleged that a woman had thrown herself behind her husband's car as it was being reversed out of the driveway of the family home.

The driver, who comes from Manor Park in Slough, was arrested immediately after police confirmed the discovery of the body. The woman was certified dead by a police doctor.

Police later confirmed the dead woman had been driven to Slough Police Station by her husband. She had been propped up in the front seat of the car during the two-mile drive to the station from their home. The murder inquiry is being led by Detective Superintendent Michael Short, of Slough police.

The incident earlier, in which a woman threw herself under the wheels of her husband's car, was treated by both police and ambulance crews as a domestic incident. The woman did not need to receive hospital treatment.

Live TV urged to spike topless darts

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE British Darts Organisation has accused the cable television channel Live TV of "undermining the sport of darts and demeaning women" with its late-night show *Topless Darts*.

The organisation, which represents Britain's eight million darts enthusiasts, said it will be writing to the Mirror Group, Live TV's owners, to express its "displeasure and disgust" at the two-minute programme, which Live TV began broadcasting earlier this week.

Robert Holmes, spokesman for the organisation, said that about a quarter of darts players were women. "When we first heard about this programme we thought it was a joke. It is the last thing women darts players want to see happen. A lot of the men players are embarrassed about it too," he said.

Mr Holmes added that playing darts topless was probably dangerous. "Darts have a habit of rebounding out of the board," he said.

Mark Cullen, assistant managing director of Live TV, admitted that the programme was partly a publicity gimmick. Only 1.2 million homes with cable television can receive Live TV and audiences are thought to run in the low thousands.

Kelvin MacKenzie, the former Editor of *The Sun* and now managing director of Live TV, is widely seen as the inspiration behind *Topless Darts*. The programmes, recorded on Bondi Beach in Australia, show topless women playing darts to the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*.

Chained inmate is habitual thief



Walker: has a criminal record from childhood

BY RICHARD FORD AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A PRISONER who caused a political row after she was shackled to a hospital bed during labour is an habitual thief who was jailed for snatching a handbag with £5,100 from a Japanese diplomat.

Annette Walker, who said she wanted to die of shame in the chains, has a criminal record stretching back to her schooldays. She was pregnant when she was sent to jail for the first time in her criminal career.

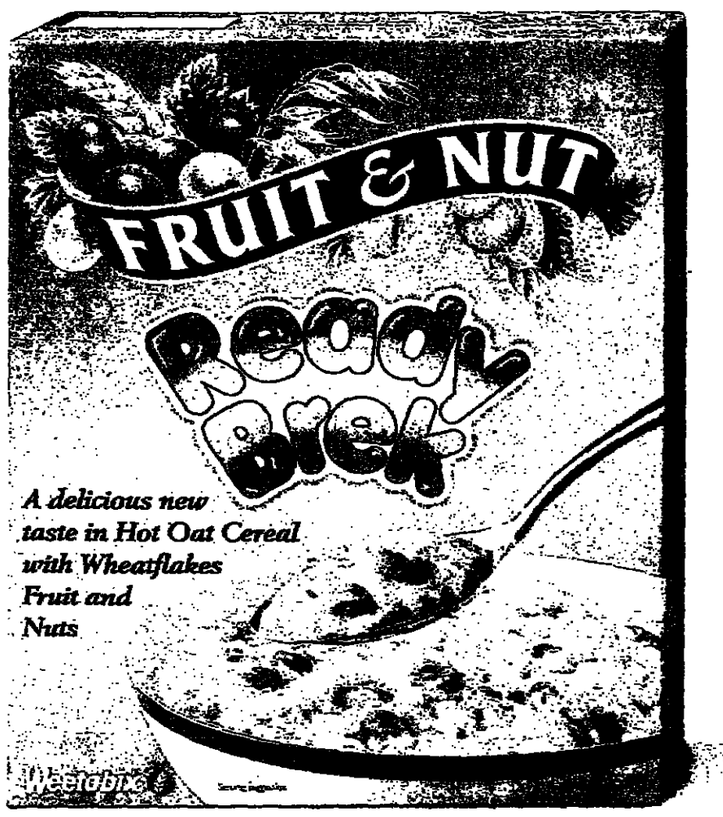
She had appeared in court 12 times for 17 theft offences — the first at the age of 15 — before being sent to Holloway in north London. She has three children, who are being looked after by her mother and former husband.

Before jailing her for four years last September, a judge at Middlesex Crown Court said Walker was an habitual and determined thief who, with her co-defendant and partner David Glide, had made a career out of dishonesty. The judge said it would be unfair to other offenders to treat her differently because she was female and had become pregnant after the offence.

He said other courts had made attempts to rehabilitate her and to administer a short, sharp shock. He had a duty to protect the public.

Walker gave birth to an 8lb 9oz daughter on January 2. She is threatening to take the Home Office to the European Court of Human Rights, claiming that her treatment was cruel and degrading.

Walker was jailed for an offence committed in May 1994. She and Glide had pleaded not guilty. Glide was arrested in Germany, then Walker became pregnant with her fourth child and became ill. The trial jury found both defendants guilty. Glide was jailed for four years.



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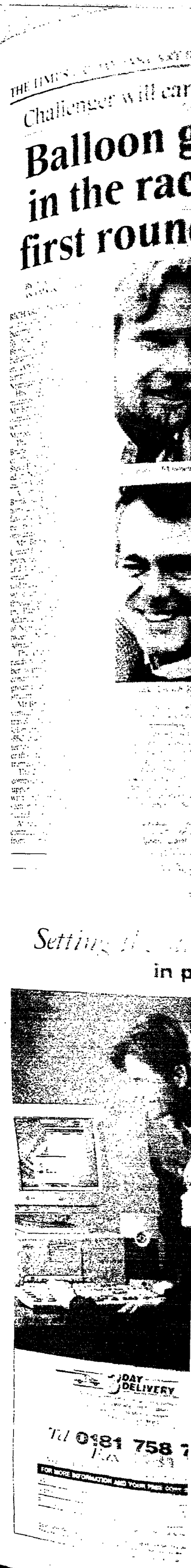
Unfortunately one of his friends found out it only cost £10,500 - the same price as his own father's car.

Suddenly, poor James was nothing special. No one wanted to play with him any more. He has even been dropped from the under-10 football team.

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Yours faithfully,
John Latimer.



Challenger will carry revolvers as guard against war zones and to repel grizzly bears

Balloon goes up in the race to be first round globe

By Oliver August and Mark Fuller

RICHARD BRANSON faces a challenger in the race to become the first balloonist to fly round the world. Henk Brink, a 52-year-old Dutch helicopter pilot and adventurer, expects to launch his attempt from the Dutch town of Nijmegen early next week.

His high-tech equipment matches Mr Branson's and Mr Brink is confident he can outpace the Virgin chairman, who is due to lift off from Morocco, also next week.

The challenge to Mr Branson is more real than that of the American balloonist Steve Fossett, who crash landed in New Brunswick, Canada, on Wednesday.

A spokesman for Herr Brink said: "Weather conditions are becoming extremely favourable and a launch could be possible from Monday onwards."

Mr Brink intends that his *Unicef Flyer* balloon should be propelled initially by the polar and then the sub-tropical jet stream. The Dutch balloon will travel east over more than 90 countries, from Europe, through Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, America and the Atlantic before landing "east of Nijmegen — anywhere between Norway and North Africa".

The Dutch team has been ready to take off since December, waiting for ideal weather conditions: no wind on the ground and a ferocious jet stream.

Mr Brink said: "The flight is virtually in the realm of space travel. At a height of 12 kilometres, the temperature is -55C and the air pressure two tenths of a bar. This means the craft's design has to be extremely high-tech and costly."

The 200ft *Unicef Flyer* is a compound balloon, with an upper compartment filled with helium and a lower section that contains hot air heated by propane burners.

At night when the helium contracts without the warmth from sunlight, the burners will heat the air, which will transfer the warmth to the helium, preventing the balloon from losing altitude.



Branson: Morocco start



Brink: Dutch lift-off

Both the Branson and Brink balloons have pressurised and heated capsules and are valued at more than £3 million. They will travel at speeds of up to 240mph in the core jet streams found more than seven miles above the Earth's surface.

The so-called "jet max" streams, usually the preserve of aeroplanes, travel at twice the speed of normal jet streams. Per Lindstrum, who will accompany Mr Branson, said: "The temperature will tell us when we are in jet max. When it suddenly turns colder we know we have picked one up." The third member of the Branson team is Rory McCarthy.

The crew of each balloon will spend their days crouched inside the capsule, which is only big enough for one person to stand up in.

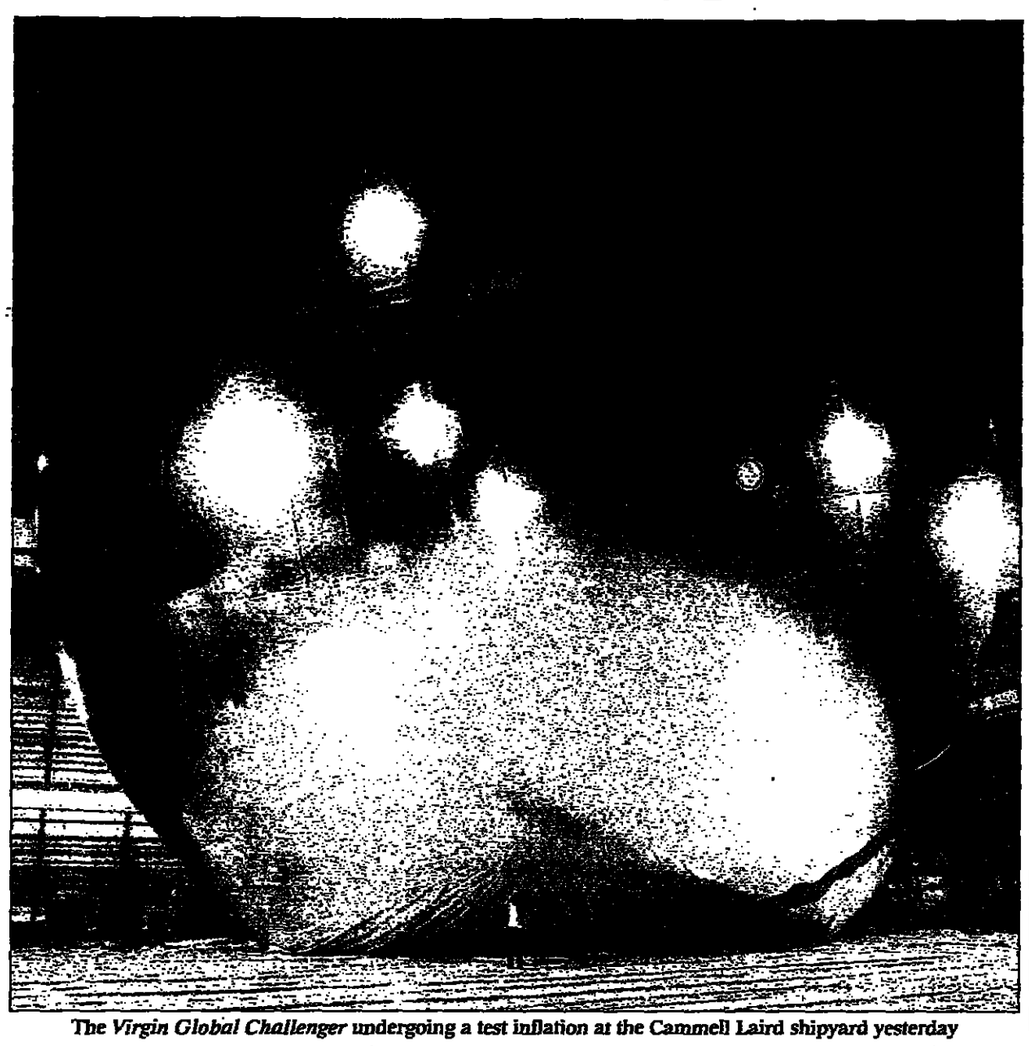
The balloons will have the same navigation instruments as planes, including a collision-warning system. Air traffic controllers around the world will monitor their progress and redirect planes away from them.

Over the Atlantic when there is no radar they will make their positions known via radio. At 175ft Mr Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* is slightly smaller than Mr Brink's.

The *Virgin Global Challenger* was tested yesterday in a huge hangar at Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside in preparation for the launch near Marrakech. The yard is one of the few places big enough to inflate and test it under cover. About 20 workers were called in to sweep the main hangar's floor clean of any debris to make sure there was no risk of anything puncturing the material.

Mr Brink will be accompanied by Colonel William Hageman, a 48-year-old Dutch military attaché to Canada and former F16 pilot. A third crew member, Wout Bakker, 32, a communications specialist who was selected from 1,400 applications, unexpectedly pulled out of the mission last month for "serious personal reasons", although there were suggestions he was unhappy with the safety precautions.

Mr Brink response was: "The crew will have parachutes and be armed with revolvers in case we come down in a war zone or a wilderness with a grizzly bear close by."



The *Virgin Global Challenger* undergoing a test inflation at the Cammell Laird shipyard yesterday

Branson sued over lottery claim

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

GUY SNOWDEN, the chairman of the American lottery contractor GTech, is suing Richard Branson for defamation over claims that he tried to bribe the Virgin entrepreneur to pull out of the bidding to run the National Lottery.

Mr Snowden has repeatedly denied Mr Branson's allegations, which were made during a *Panorama* programme last month. It is understood that he decided to sue when Mr Branson threatened earlier this week not to co-operate with an independent inquiry into the allegations set up by Oflot, the lottery regulator.

"I have taken this action to restore my good name," Mr Snowden said yesterday. He said he intended to co-operate with the Oflot inquiry.

The fact that Mr Snowden is suing only Mr Branson, and not *Panorama* or the BBC who were responsible for broadcasting the allegations, suggests that the dispute between the two men has become personal. Mr Branson also seems to be taking the affair personally. He initially issued a writ for libel on December 15 against GTech — which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, the lottery operator — and Robert Rendine, its director of communications, for branding him a liar. He issued a second writ on January 2, this time naming Mr Snowden.

A spokesman for Mr Branson said that he stood by everything he has said. "We will vigorously defend the action and look forward to seeing Mr Snowden in court."

It is likely that the three cases will be consolidated, although it will be months before the action comes to court. The case relates to a lunch at Mr Branson's west London home in September 1993 where he claims Mr Snowden attempted to bribe him not to bid for the lottery contract. John Jackson, who set up Mr Branson's lottery bid and who is now chief executive of Sketchley, was at the lunch and has supported Mr Branson's version of events.

The case is likely to cast a shadow over the official Oflot inquiry, which is expected to be held behind closed doors and last two to three weeks.

Tornado crewmen survive new crash

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

TWO more RAF crewmen escaped yesterday when another Tornado crashed during a training flight in Germany. It was the third Tornado to be lost in two days, after the mid-air collision between two F3 air defence aircraft over Lincolnshire on Wednesday.

Yesterday's incident involved a GR1 strike aircraft which was flying with two other Tornados near Münster when it dived and hit open ground. The navigator was seriously injured but the pilot suffered only minor injuries.

The jets were flying at medium level — more than 1,000ft — because regular low-level training is banned in Germany.

The latest crash means that the RAF has lost 22 Tornados, both the air defence and strike versions, since 1990. A replacement costs up to £25 million. The toll of crashes reads: five in 1990, four in 1991, none in 1992, one in 1993, six in 1994, three last year and three so far this year.

A board of inquiry was set up to investigate yesterday's incident which happened at about 3pm local time near the town of Albachten, south of Münster. The three Tornados, which were on a training sortie, were from 14 Squadron based at RAF Brüggen.

The other two Tornados were not involved in the incident and returned to their base. The crewmen of the doomed Tornado were picked up by RAF search and rescue helicopters after ejecting from the aircraft. The pilot was taken to an RAF hospital and the navigator to a German military hospital.

A spokeswoman for the British forces in Germany said the cause of the crash was unknown. The Tornado was carrying a number of practice bombs made of plastic and cement, which contain no explosive.

Preliminary inquiries have established that the two aircraft destroyed on Wednesday, from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, were not at 800ft as claimed by witnesses. They collided at 14,000ft a few minutes after take-off.

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A health service without a bed available when needed is a deception, say Lib Dems

Doctors blame casualty crisis on the Government

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

HOSPITALS are cracking under the strain of a surge in emergency admissions that has caused casualty units to close and patients to be turned away, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

The British Medical Association said pressure had been building for two or three years and had reached crisis point in some hospitals. It blamed "cash-driven rather than care-driven policies" for the closure of beds. Emergency admissions rose by more than 6 per cent last year but funding for emergency work had been cut by 1 to 2 per cent, the BMA said. Earlier research showed a 13 per cent rise in emergency admissions in the previous four years.

Over the same period, since 1991, 9,000 acute beds have been lost, 7 per cent of the total, as hospitals treat patients more quickly and focus on day surgery. The BMA said the closures had gone too far. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, said: "There is a potentially lethal cocktail of problems — a lack of slack in the system due to the run down in beds, staff shortages because many youngsters are fed up and a disastrous shortfall in community care." Hospitals were running at 90 to 95 per cent of capacity, leaving no flexibility for peaks and troughs in demand. In winter, flu, accidents and falls, and illness caused by the cold weather all increased demand. Doctors say that they cannot admit patients for whom they do not have beds, staff or resources and GPs spend hours phoning in the search for beds.


Geoffrey Cranswick died soon after admission

Dr Macara said: "There are reports of a situation in some hospitals that can only be described as a crisis. We don't know how widespread it is but we want action to avert a national crisis."

It emerged yesterday that staff at the Bradford Royal Infirmary in West Yorkshire had spent more than two hours trying to find an intensive care place for Geoffrey Cranswick, 66, after he collapsed in his doctor's surgery last Tuesday. Nine hospitals were unable to offer a bed and Mr Cranswick was eventually flown 70 miles to Scarborough by police helicopter. He died 20 minutes after arriving, although medical staff say that his condition was so poor the delay probably made little difference.

Yesterday a Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust spokesman said it was affected by the nationwide shortage of nursing staff. The infirmary has only five intensive care beds for a population of about 500,000. On the day Mr Cranswick was brought in, one bed was empty, but could not be used because of a staff shortage.

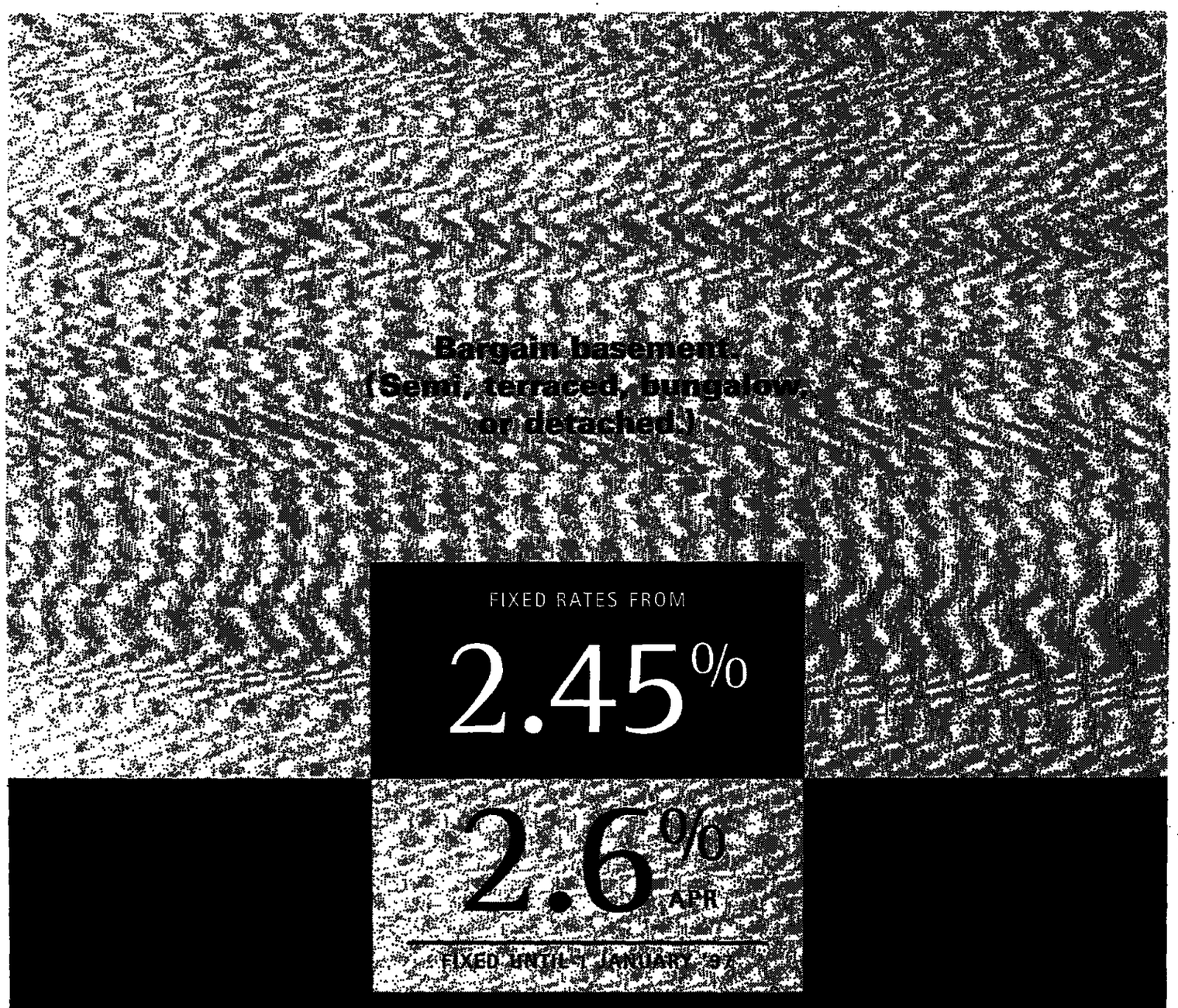
There was embarrassment at the trust when it emerged later that Mr Cranswick, a former policeman who retired at the age of 47, had raised thousands of pounds for the British Heart Foundation. Mr Cranswick's MP, Gerry Sutcliffe, the member for Bradford South, is taking up the case with Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

Michael Heseltine said the increase in emergency admissions was "a matter of concern to the Government". Announcing a review of emergency care by Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, the Deputy Prime Minister said all necessary steps would be taken to deal with the problem. "The whole House is deeply preoccupied with the standards of the health service and to ensure that they are maintained."

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, disclosed that he had written to all NHS trusts telling them to introduce measures to deal with the staff shortage in accident and emergency departments. These include allowing nurses to perform a wider range of tasks and incentives to encourage more junior doctors to train in casualty. The BMA said it had identified the problems in Scotland, Wales, Bristol, Southampton, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham, Nottingham and London. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrats' health spokesman, said the Government was responsible for ensuring there were enough beds. "An NHS without a bed conveniently available at the time of most acute need is a contradiction and a deception."

TIM SMITH/GUZELIAN


Staff at Bradford Royal Infirmary contacted ten hospitals to find an intensive care bed for Mr Cranswick



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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Dead bodies left on ward as cold adds to pressure

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

PRESSURE for beds in Scottish hospitals has led to cancellation of thousands of routine operations and left Glasgow hospitals so short of mortuary space that they have had to leave dead bodies on a ward.

The shortage of beds was exacerbated by the recent cold spell, which saw temperatures in central Scotland dip to -19C.

At Glasgow Royal Infirmary bodies were left on trolleys in a ward because the mortuary was unable to cope. A hospital spokesman said that emergency admissions had gone up from an average 15 a day to 56, and there had been a peak of 70. So far this week 72 elective operations had been cancelled.

The number of deaths in the hospital has risen from three a day to an average of five, and on one day there were 11. The holidays have meant that undertakers and crematoriums have been shut. The average time in Glasgow before burial has risen from four days to eight days.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary would normally use the city mortuary or another hospital mortuary to store bodies temporarily but those were also full. At the city's Victoria Infirmary bodies were kept in corridors on trolleys within the mortuary area and at Stobhill Hospital they were kept on the floor of the mortuary.

The British Medical Association in Scotland said it was aware of problems across the country, particularly in the Borders, Lothian, Strathclyde and Tayside where operations have been cancelled to cope with emergency admissions.

Lothian Health Board issued a red alert on January 3, which meant that all hospitals in the region were put on standby to expect a sharp increase in the number of referrals. That led to the cancellation of 334 planned operations across Lothian in the last week.

Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, the main teaching hospital attached to the university, has seen a 20 per cent rise in emergency admissions in the past two years. Derek Maclean, the hospital's director of medical services, has appealed to GPs to find alternatives to admissions wherever possible.

The hospital is also appealing for qualified nursing staff who are on holiday or not working to report for work. It needs about a hundred additional nurses to cope with the present workload.

This week 49 routine operations have had to be cancelled. From Monday a short-stay surgical ward will be turned into a medical ward, which will mean the cancellation of a further 45 operations.

Dr Maclean said the cost-effectiveness drive was partly to blame. "In the past there was a lot more slack in the system and we could cope with peaks when they came along." He said staff were extremely concerned about the level of service they would be able to give in future.

Healthcare spending per head in Scotland is 23 per cent higher than in England, the Scottish Office said yesterday. In the current year the Government will spend £820 for every man, woman and child in Scotland, compared with £667 in England.

The reduction in hospital beds is continuing. In Scotland 5,000 acute medical beds have been earmarked for closure by 2000.

Hospital juggles trolleys and chairs

By Jeremy Laurance

THREE temporary beds had to be set up in operating theatres and seven in the accident and emergency department to accommodate a rush of patients at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, last Tuesday.

Dr John Thurston, consultant in charge of the A&E department, said he had had to take two patients off trolleys and sit them in chairs to make way for others who were more ill.

"It was a nightmare night. The last two weeks have been the busiest in the 17 years I have been here," Dr Thurston said.

"At one point I came across a man standing in the middle of the department ashen-faced. I asked him if he was all right and he said he had a crushing pain across his chest. I realised immediately he was having a heart attack but we had no more trolleys, so I had to move an old lady off one and sit her in a chair."

St Heller Hospital, in nearby Carshalton, ran out of casualty trolleys two weeks ago and ambulances had to wait while doctors treated patients on their stretchers in the corridors.

Karen Jones, the nurse in charge of the A&E department, said: "We have never refused to see anyone but we regularly have patients waiting on ambulance trolleys and we bring beds down for patients in the department overnight."

Queen Mary's, St Helier and four other hospitals in the south London area asked to close their A&E departments recently because of the pressure but London Ambulance Service refused to allow them, saying it would have nowhere to take emergency patients.

The medical directors of the six hospitals have written to William Wells, chairman of South Thames Regional Health Authority, demanding action to relieve the pressure. One had a 22 per cent rise in accident and emergency admissions during the past year, the others about 14 per cent.

Dr Thurston, who is registrar of the Faculty of A&E Medicine, said: "All A&E departments are experiencing the same problem. We don't know why there has been this sudden rise in emergencies. There is no flu epidemic and it is not the cold weather. No one can explain it."

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Dead bodies
on ward as
adds to pres

Hospital jug
trolleys and

Money drags back Sex Pistols, spitting and screaming

■ Frank Sinatra can do it, the Beatles do it, even ageing punks the Sex Pistols do it. Dominic Kennedy reports on an unlikely revival of the 1970s good old days

THE Sex Pistols, the spitting standard-bearers of punk who incited a generation to rebel against their elders and to reject ageing pop stars, are threatening to regroup just as they are turning 40.

The 1970s band, vilified for describing the monarchy as a fascist regime in their single *God Save The Queen*, hope to begin a world tour in America in the spring, followed by dates in the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia.

Last night, the rock world was divided between former fans who said the Sinatra-style comeback was a denial of everything the movement once stood for, and those who said it merely renewed their old cynical sense of fun.

Some 17 years after the band's demise, its members are being lured by the prospect of riches from a new generation of fans reared on American neo-punk bands such as Green Day and the guitar-dominated sound of Britpop. Bass guitarist Sid Vicious died of a heroin overdose in 1979, but the Pistols have invited back their original bassist, Glen Matlock, who turns 40 in August. Steve Jones, 40 last year, is back on guitar with drummer Paul Cook, 40 in July, and singer Johnny Rotten, now using his real name John Lydon. He is 40 on January 31. All have been working musicians for many years. Lydon told the *New Musical Express* that his plans for 1996 are "disturbing, shocking, disrupting and definitely newsworthy".

Former punk writer Tony Parsons said yesterday that the group was wrong to reform, but he could not resist a little nostalgia. Now a respectable commentator on the arts, he last saw the Pistols on Jubilee Day in 1977 at their infamous riverboat concert on the Thames.

"The boat was pulled to one side and the event was very violently smashed up by the river police," he said. "That was absolutely wonderful.

"The idea of Johnny Rotten as this kind of ridiculous pantomime dame apeing the anger of his youth is quite depressing. They should sack Rotten and get Victor Meldrew as the true voice of middle-aged rebellion.

"The Sex Pistols wanted to get rid of everything. That was justified because in those days there was a rock establishment to kick over."

Vivienne Westwood, the tailor of punk, has become an acclaimed fashion designer. Mark Palmers, her personal assistant, said: "She is not interested in youth culture. She considers that exercise in punk to have been a rebellion against the Establishment and she grew out of that."

Edward Tudor-Pole, 38, who as Eddy Tenpole briefly replaced Rotten as lead singer of the Pistols until Vicious died and the band folded, was more enthusiastic. He has an adult career as an actor and presenter of *The Crystal Maze* on Channel 4 but still takes his old punk band, Tenpole Tudor, on the road for annual tours.

"It's awful that people like The Tremeloes are still on the cabaret circuit but it's impossible to give up real rock 'n' roll, you just can't," he said. "Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry were touring last year."

Tudor-Pole, who was babysitting his year-old son Henry at home, said: "The Sex Pistols can't lose. If they do it cynically, that's very Sex Pistolian. If they do it for fun, who can knock that?"

Muff Fitzgerald, a spokesman for Virgin Records, who handle the band's records, said: "Their sales have remained constant. When people changed to compact disc players, they wanted to replace their beer-covered, scratched old copies of *Never Mind The Bollocks*."





Seventies icons: from left, a young Steve Jones, Glen Matlock, Johnny Rotten, Paul Cook and, right, Sid Vicious

THE PUNK BANDS, THEN AND NOW

Many punks would rather forget their wayward youth, but a few still carry on:

The Stranglers were known as the hard men of punk, even fighting with their own audience. Formed in 1976, their line-up is remarkably settled, although Hugh Cornwell, there original lead singer, left in the early Nineties. The band still tours today.

Poly Styrene and her band **X-Ray Spex** had a top 20 hit in 1978 with *Germ Free Adolescence*, but their best-known song was the punk anthem *Oh Bondage, Up Yours*. She is now a practising member of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness and has changed her name to Maharani Devi.

Jordan was the archetypal punk muse. She changed her name from Pamela Brooke and worked for Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood in Sex, the punk clothes shop in King's Road. She also appeared in Derek Jarman's film *Jubilee*. When her marriage ended she became a shepherd on her sister's farm in Yorkshire. She is now a veterinary nurse in Seaford and breeds Burmese cats.

The Ramones, formed in 1974, were called America's first punk band, and will be playing their "last ever show" at the Brixton Academy on February 3, although their record company says they have no plans to split up.

Toyah Willcox's first acting role was as Mad in the punk film *Jubilee* in 1977. Her most recent was Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This month she began presenting *The Good Sex Guide, Late*, having had a couple of pop hits. She lives in Wiltshire.

Siouxsie Sioux and **The Banshees** made their debut at a punk festival at the 100 Club, London, in 1976. She released an album last year and has lived near Toulouse in France for several years, with her cats and Budgie, her husband and drummer in the band.

The Cure have changed line-up seven times. A new album due in May features brass, violinists and Mexicans. Their spokesman Doug Wright said: "They do not consider themselves to be punk at all now."

When a sensitive scalp must not be brushed aside



MEDICAL BRIEFING

SIR RICHARD TRANT, a retired general, is an ebullient man of traditional Cornish stock who has been brought up to think that to complain of physical pain is a sign of weakness, but even he had to admit that the agony of temporal arteritis was more than he could bear.

Since Sir Richard retired from the Army he has been working in Bedfordshire. One Friday evening several months ago he and his wife set off to return to their house in Cornwall. When he started the journey he was jovial. As the Trants headed west down the motorway the general noticed that an oncoming car lights induced a pain behind his right eye which, as he says, soon made the pain from the worst hangover he has ever experienced seem as nothing.

The pain waxed and waned but it was so apparent that its exacerbations were induced by the car lights that he had to hand over the driving to his wife so he could lie back in the passenger seat with his eyes shut. Before he reached Cornwall he was aware of another unusual symptom: not only did he have severe pain behind the right eye but the right side of his head and scalp had become very tender.

When he reached his house the scalp was so sensitive that brushing, and to an even greater extent, combing, his hair had become impossible. Thinking that he had an unusual form of flu he took to his bed. Fortunately, as he was no better at the end of the weekend, he sent for the family doctor who diagnosed temporal arteritis, also known as giant cell, or cranial, arteritis. Sir Richard was sent into hospital, a biopsy was taken of one of the cranial arteries in an attempt to confirm the diagnosis, but he was treated immediately with massive doses of steroids.

Within two or three weeks he was back at work. The pain had gone and he was feeling as well as ever but he was asked to continue to take smaller doses of steroids. Before the advent of these drugs Sir Richard would have had months of pain, progressive muscle weakness and one chance in five of going blind.

Temporal arteritis is not as uncommon as might be supposed and affects one person in a thousand over the age of 50. It attacks women slightly more often than men. Temporal arteritis is caused by an inflammation of the wall of the arteries, usually those leading to the scalp but occasionally the coronary or other arteries may be affected. The classic symptoms are headaches, scalp and temporal tenderness and very often disturbances in vision. Immediate diagnosis is imperative for, if the eyesight is involved, early administration of steroids can be the only way of saving a patient from blindness.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Chickenfeed adds to poultry prices

WEEKEND SHOPPING

PRICES for pork, chicken and eggs are among those likely to rise soon because of increases in the international prices for animal feeds such as soya bean meal, rapeseed and fishmeal. Feed prices, up to £100 a tonne higher since August, are expected to continue to increase.

Jim Reed, director-general of the UK Agricultural Trade Supply Association, says the increased cost of feedstuffs will work through to affect beef, lamb and dairy products.

Advertised supermarket promotions include:

Asda: extra large 2.04kg chickens, £3.49 each, fresh pork spare rib £2.39 a kg, fresh lamb shoulder £3.05 a kg.

Budgens: Ross *Tendergrill* frozen grillsteaks £1.59 for six, coleslaw in reduced calorie dressing 33p for 250g, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb.

Co-op: *stewing steak* £3.69 a kg, pre-packed onions 39p for 625g, pre-packed carrots 39p for 625g.

Harrods: half wheel of stilton £14.95, camembert cheeses £3.08 each, whole Scottish kippers £7.25 for 7lb box.

Iceland: breaded haddock steaks £2.49 for six, steak and kidney £1.29 for 454g, Matthews turkey steaks £1.99 for eight.

Marks & Spencer: fresh Caledonian salmon fillets £3.99 for 283g, frozen at sea cod in crumb £2.99 for 600g, reduced fat lite chicken, tomato and basil £2.99 for 350g.

Morrison's: chicken korma, pasanda or biryani £1.79 for 340g, mini onion bhajis 89p for 15, thin pork sausages £1.55 for 24.

Safeway: rump steak £6.99 a kg, half leg of lamb (knuckle/fillet) £5.89 a kg, salmon en croute £1.99 for 400g.

Sainsbury's: frozen New Zealand whole lamb leg £2.18 a kg, unsmoked rindless back bacon 99p for 175g, frozen chicken (1.8-2kg) £1.85 each.

Somerfield: smoked haddock fillet £3.72 a kg, British pork loin chops £3.30 a kg, Class A fresh chicken drumsticks £1.99 for eight.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.68 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, white seedless grapes £1.49 a lb.

Waitrose: British boneless leg pork £3.59 a kg, premium pork sausages £1.29 for eight, blueberries £1.99 for 200g.

BY ROBIN YOUNG

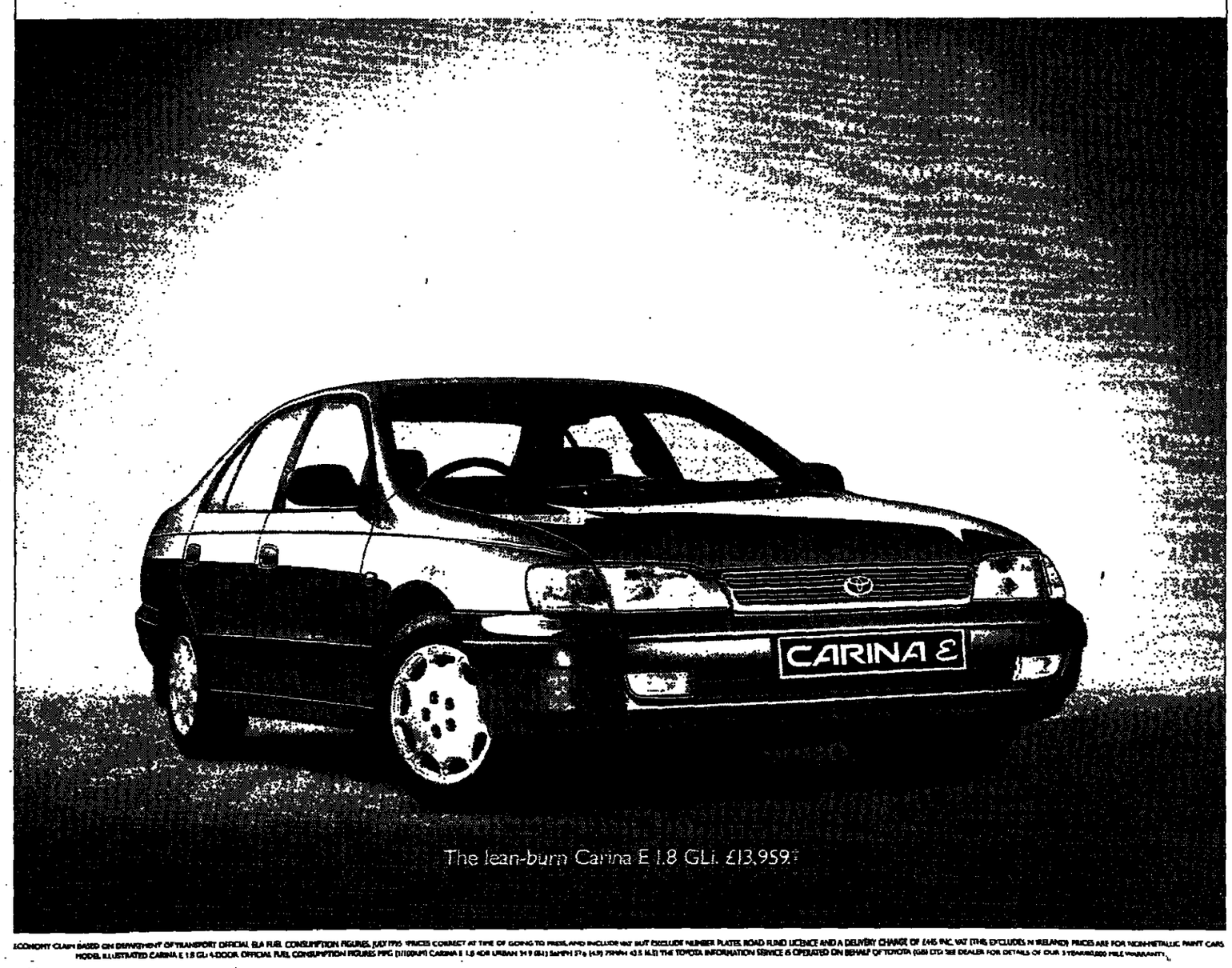
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Minister will ignore advice of bird groups and spare rampant invader from guns

Gummer to cancel duck cull over fear of public outrage

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to cull vast numbers of Britain's most notorious duck are to be abandoned because ministers fear the sight of dead birds will infuriate animal lovers.

Under the scheme, backed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Spanish ornithologists, hundreds of ruddy ducks would have been shot this spring across the Midlands and Wales.

Ruddy ducks, a North American species that escaped into the countryside in the 1950s, have been flying to Andalusia in Spain and mating with the rare and prized white-headed duck. The hybrids are viewed by the Spanish as alien interlopers and the ruddy duck is shot on sight. Wildlife groups and the Spanish Government have demanded safeguards for the white-headed duck, fearing it could become extinct.



Gummer: fears protests over national duck cull

Campaigners, including the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, thought they had secured the backing of all members of the ruddy duck working group, set up in the early 1990s by the Department of the Environment after pressure from Madrid. But, with just two weeks to go before details of the the big shoot were to be finalised, ministers at the department have been told to scrap it.

English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, has told John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, that the action is not important enough to justify the time and funds, in spite of fears of a wrangle with Madrid. The advice has been seized on by Mr Gummer, who is also concerned about public reaction to a mass slaughter.

Barbara Young, chief executive of the RSPB, said yesterday: "We see culling as a high priority to ensure the survival of the white-headed duck, which is a globally threatened species."

Sources within English Nature say the organisation "wants to wash its hands of the whole business". It takes the view that the ruddy duck wrangle has got out of hand and that Britain has far more pressing conservation problems. There is no direct evidence, opponents claim, that the ducks in Spain are actually from Britain. English Nature has advised that landowners do not want culls on their land. Long term, there are concerns about who will pay for an annual cull.

However, the RSPB said yesterday that the appearance of hybrids in Spain could be directly linked to the growth in British ruddy ducks to about 600 pairs. Small-scale shoots of ruddy ducks have been carried out to assess the likely effectiveness of a nationwide programme.

Ms Young, who has written to English Nature urging confirmation that the cull will go ahead, said: "We are in no doubt about the importance of the regional control trial. The Spanish have shown remarkable commitment to sorting out the problem in their own country. We have got to respond."

Phil Grice, for English Nature, who will present conclusions at the forthcoming meeting of the ruddy duck working group, said he could not comment.

The RSPB spokesman said he understood Mr Gummer's concern, especially with a general election looming. But he added that the charity had members who would normally be alarmed at birds being culled and that the RSPB had spent a lot of effort explaining its position.



The ruddy duck, left, which has begun mating freely with the rare and prized white-headed duck in Spain

Bypass work halted on day three as guards are washed out

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE security operation to protect contractors on the Newbury bypass was condemned as a shambles yesterday after a third day's work was lost to protesters.

Keith Lock, Liberal Democrat leader of Newbury District Council, demanded extra guards and a more active police role after it emerged that up to 200 security guards had been sent home because rain soaked their tented village.

About 100 activists forced workmen to retreat yesterday morning after an hour's work felling a handful of trees near Snelsmore Common, at the northern end of the proposed dual carriageway, even though they were outnumbered by 150 guards who formed a ring round a digger. The defences were not breached but the circle was considered too small to allow the digger to work safely and, at 9.30am, work was abandoned for the day amid loud cheers.

Reliance Security admitted that it had sent many of its guards home because of problems with their tented accommodation, at a disused farm 14 miles from Newbury. The Highways Agency said ten acres had been cleared so far and it was working on a strategy with contractors to outwit campaigners. A spokesman said: "We would like to be forging ahead but the clearance work, including some done before Christmas, amounts to 5 per cent of the total." The agency said if work was delayed it would consult English Nature on how it could proceed during the nesting season.

Mr Lock said: "The last two days they have tried to make a start but have not achieved very much. They have got to change tactics and get more security staff and more police involved. They have got to solve this, otherwise it could go on for weeks."

He feared there was now a danger that preparation work on the £100 million scheme would not finish in the 14 weeks before the nesting season will stop contractors on many parts of the 9½-mile route.

"The whole operation is a shambles," he said. "The police may have to take a stronger line. I think more resources are needed to create a bigger screen around the workmen." The policing is shared by the Thames Valley and Hampshire forces.

Community wildlife projects scrapped

HUNDREDS of wildlife projects aimed at transforming housing estates and school playgrounds by introducing frog ponds and wildlife gardens and creating small forests were scrapped yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, announced it was ending its Community Action for Wildlife and Schools Grant Scheme to help to meet cuts of more than £1.2 million ordered by the Environment Department.

Peter Shirley, community affairs director for the Wildlife Trusts, said the decision was a bitter blow. "The grants have transformed inner-city areas and acted as 'pump priming' to secure funds from business and industry."

But Eddie Idle, director at English Nature, said that both projects had been nearing the end of their lives and other organisations and companies were running similar projects.

The Environment Department said that it was being asked to make cuts of up to 8 per cent but English Nature's grant had been cut by only 5 per cent.

GP calls on wife back from dead

The doctor who mistakenly pronounced a woman dead has been to visit her in hospital. Dr David Roberts called on Daphne Banks, 61, as she recovered in Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Yesterday he was back at work at his surgery in nearby Great Staughton.

Dr Roberts has publicly apologised for the mistake he made when called to Mrs Banks's home at Stonely, Cambridgeshire. She had taken an overdose. An undertaker noticed movement in a vein, and she is now making good progress.

Green team

Frogwatch, a scheme to study why the frog population is declining, was launched by David Bellamy. Children will monitor the progress of spawn, tadpoles and young frogs for the National Amphibian Survey in Cardiff.

Accidents rise

The number of children involved in road accidents rose 4 per cent last summer to 13,090. The Transport Department said the rise could have been caused by the hot weather encouraging children to go out to play.

Bank sues actor

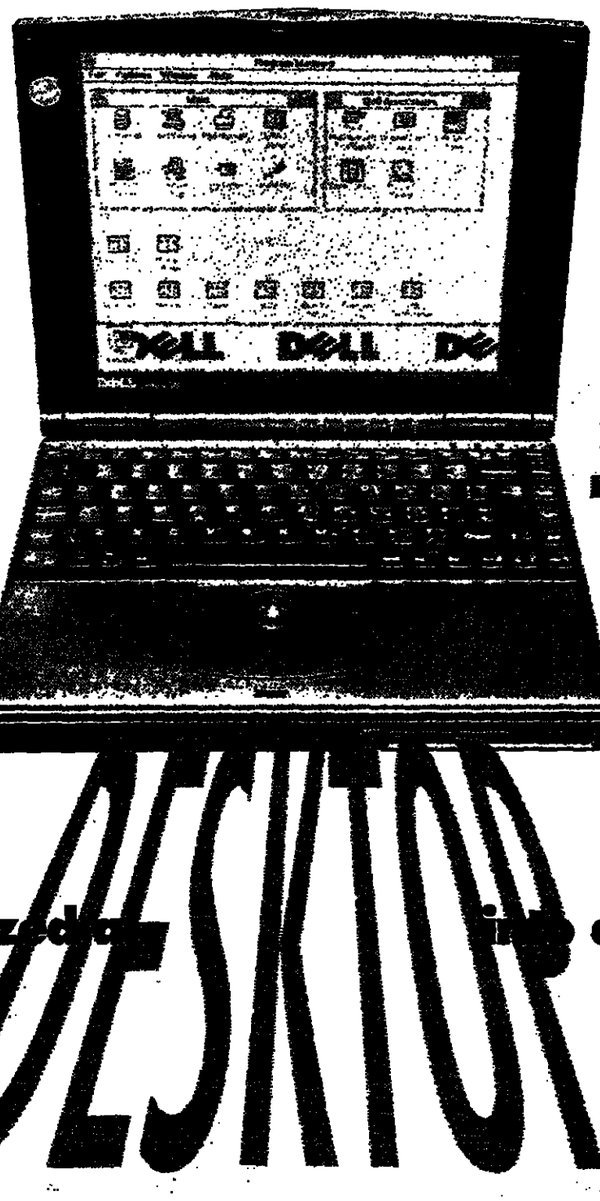
The actor Ricky Tomlinson, 56, Detective Chief Inspector Wise in the Granada Television series *Cracker*, is being sued by Midland Bank over an alleged £40,000 debt, stemming from an outstanding £24,125 overdraft.

£1m for artworks

The art collection of the late Sir John Pope-Hennessy, former director of the British Museum and of the Victoria & Albert Museum, was sold for £1.03 million at Christie's, New York. The artworks came from his Florence home.

Austen success

The BBC's film of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, starring Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds, took more than £2.5 million at the box office in the United States last year. The film opens in Britain later this month.



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'Lurch to the right' claims dismissed as baloney put around by party malcontents

Thatcher pours scorn on federalist creed of 'No Nation' Tories

This is an edited extract of the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture delivered by Baroness Thatcher yesterday:

Keith Joseph, in whose honour this Lecture is delivered, had the charm of a hundred paradoxes. He was a modest man; but, unlike so many modest men, he had really nothing to be modest about. He was — that overworked, but in this case appropriate word — "brilliant", yet he never indulged in intellectual virtuosity. He was brave, yet by nature he was timid. He could seem cerebral and remote; but he had a warm heart and impish humour that made his friendship an inexpressible delight.

Keith Joseph's name will always be closely associated with the rethinking of Conservative principles and policies in preparation for the Conservative Government of the 1980s. What marks out our Conservative vision is the insight that the State — government — only *underpins* the conditions for a prosperous and fulfilling life. It does not *generate* them. Moreover, the very *existence* of this State, with its huge capacity for evil, is a potential threat to all the moral, cultural, social and economic benefits of freedom.

Keith and I were struggling to shift Britain back from the socialist State, we were also acting as conservatives, with a small 'c'. We were seeking to re-establish an understanding of the fundamental truths which had made Western life, British life, and the life of the English-speaking peoples what they were. This was the foundation of our Conservative revolution. It remains the foundation for any successful Conservative programme of government.

The cause of limited government — in which the State is servant not master, custodian not collaborator, umpire not player — is the one beneath whose standard Keith Joseph and I gathered all those years ago. It is time to take it out of mothballs, brush off the odd collectivist cobweb that's hung on to it, and go forth to meet the foe.

Avoiding debate about the large issues of government and politics leads to direction-less failure. Being prepared to state uncomfortable truths is the precondition for success. Splits and disagreements over important issues never did a party so much harm as the absence of honest, principled debate.

There is, however, one apparent lesson that we would be most unwise to draw. That is the suggestion, which one hears from time to time, that the only hope for the Conservative Party is a period in Opposition. The situation today in the Party is entirely different from that in 1974.

It is no secret that between John Major and me there have been differences . . . on occasion. But these have always been differences about *how* to achieve objectives, rather than *what* those objectives should be. What is required now is to ensure that those objectives are clearly explained, so that a re-elected Conservative Government can go further towards fulfilling them. The attractions of Opposition are greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it.

But, judging from the opinion polls, Opposition is where the electorate is at present inclined to send us. For a variety of reasons, which I shall describe shortly, I believe that this would be ill-judged on their part. The Conservative Party still has much to offer. And from Mr Blair's New — or not so new — Labour Party there is much to fear. But we must not ignore the present discontent.

> "The centre ground is as slippery as the spin doctors who have colonised it"

Some of it is more or less inevitable. A constant struggle is required to ensure that long-serving governments don't run out of steam. I always regarded it as necessary to combine my role as Prime Minister with that of Chief Stoker, so as to keep up the pressure.

It is also true that the political world is more complicated than in the Eighties. The sharp divide between the force of freedom represented by the Conservative Party and the West on the one hand, and the forces of collectivism represented by the Labour Party and the Soviet bloc on the other, is a thing of the past. The extent of the success we achieved in the 1980s has, in this sense, caught up with us.

The fashionable expression is that Communism and indeed Socialism "imploded". If that means that their system was always unviable, so be it — though many of the people who now say this scarcely seemed to believe it true before the "implosion" occurred. But, anyway, let's not forget that the system collapsed because it was squeezed by the pressure that we on the Right of politics applied. The Left should not be allowed to get away with pretending otherwise.

The Conservative Party today has problems not because our analysis has been wrong or our principles faulty. Our difficulties are due to the fact that, in certain limited but important respects, our policies and performance have not lived up to our analysis and principles.

That is why the current idea, put around by some malcontents, that the Conservative Party is in trouble because it has moved to the Right, and that this is what needs to be remedied, is baloney — and Denis might be able to suggest a still more telling description. The test is simple. Just ask yourself: is it because the Government has *not* spent, borrowed and taxed *enough* that people are discontented? Or is it that we have gone *too far* towards increasing government spending, borrowing and taxation? The answer is obvious. We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government.

I am not sure what is meant by those who say that the Party should return to something called "One Nation Conservatism". As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as "No Nation Conservatism". And certainly anyone who believes that salvation is to be found further away from the basic Conservative principles which prevailed in the 1980s — small government, a property-owning democracy, tax cuts, deregulation and national sovereignty — is profoundly mistaken.

That mistake in most cases has its origins in the acceptance of the picture of the 1980s which has been painted by the critics. That decade changed the direction of Britain to such an extent that it is unlikely that even a Labour Government would altogether reverse it — try as they might.

Inflation was brought down, without the use of the prices and incomes controls which the great and the good all agreed were indispensable. Public spending as a share of GDP fell, which allowed tax rates to be cut — and government borrowing was reduced. We repaid debt. Three hundred and sixty-four economists who claimed that it was madness to think you could get economic growth by cutting government borrowing were proved wrong: I'm told they were never the same again.

Reform of the public finances was matched by reform of the trade unions, deregulation and privatisation of industries and a great extension of ownership of houses, shares and savings — quite a lot of "stakeholding" in fact.

Moreover, though we made mistakes of financial management by allowing the economy to overheat and inflation to rise towards the end of that period, the general advance of prosperity was solidly based upon real economic improvements. Above all, there was a rapid and sustained rise in industrial productivity, which has continued.

The message from all this is not that everything in the 1980s was perfect or that everything that has followed it in the 1990s has been bad. Every Prime Minister has his — and her — regrets. The important message, rather, is that in Britain we have seen from the 1980s what works — just as we saw in the 1970s what did not. And what works here, as elsewhere, is free enterprise and *not* big government.

So it would make no economic sense at all for us to move closer to the policies of our opponents. Rather, the *economic* challenge is to cut back the burden of state spending, borrowing and taxation still further.

And trying to move towards the centre ground makes no *political* sense either. As Keith used to remind us, it is not the centre ground but the common ground — the shared instincts and traditions of the British people — on which we should pitch our tents. That ground is solid — whereas the centre ground is as slippery as the spin doctors who have colonised it.

The limitation of government is still the great issue of British politics. There is a constant tendency, in which pressure groups, vested interests and the media play a part, for government to expand. One of Thatcher's laws — for which I owe something to Lord Acton — is that all government tends to expand, and socialist government expands absolutely. If you start with their view of the State — that it exists to right social wrongs rather than to create a framework for freedom — you can never find the definitive justification for saying "no". Above all, you cannot say "no" to demands for more spending on welfare.

It was with the best intent that postwar governments spent more on welfare, believing that as the standard of living rose, people would do more to look after themselves. What we had to do, as Keith often said in earlier years, was to break the "cycle of deprivation". But the more we spent, the greater the dependency, illegitimacy and crime became. And of course the tax burden rose.

Western countries have now woken up to the problem. But they are still paralysed by it. Here, though, Peter Lilley has been advancing steadily with social security reform, making important changes to reduce future burdens. Yet, as Peter himself often reminds us, social security still accounts for over 40 per cent of central government spending and costs every working person £15 every working day.

Alleviating the burden of the social security budget is a thankless but vital task, for which real Tory stamina is required. It will not be done by financial sleight of hand.

Limited government doesn't mean weak government, only less government. This is shown by the courageous and far reaching reforms which Michael Howard has been making in the criminal justice system. The strength of the opposition he faces from the vested interests shows he is right — almost as much as do the encouraging recent crime figures.

But today the main challenge to limited government comes not from within these shores at all, but rather beyond them — from the European Union. There is, of course, also a challenge to self-government, and the two are closely connected.

> "I always regarded my role as that of Chief Stoker, so as to keep up the pressure"

The activity of the European Court, which can only ultimately be checked by amending the European Communities Act itself, is increasingly undermining our judicial system and the sovereignty of our Parliament. Proposals are being made for common European defence — proposals which Michael Portillo has roundly and rightly attacked. They too are a threat to national independence. But most important, of course, is the proposed single European currency which, as John Redwood has argued, "would be a major step on the way to a single European nation".

But vital as the issue of self-government is, it is limited government that concerns me today. For the European Union not only wishes to take away our powers; it wishes to increase its own. It wants to regulate our industries and labour markets, pontificate over our tastes, in short to determine our lives. The Maastricht treaty shows the outlines of the bureaucratic superstate which is envisaged. And Maastricht is the beginning, not the end of that process.

Self-government, limited government, our laws, our Parliament, our freedom. These things were not easily won. And if we Conservatives explain that they are now in peril, they will not be lightly surrendered.

Leading article, page 17



Major left in no doubt about his 'wrong direction'

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Margaret Thatcher last night opened the post-mortem on the Conservative election defeat of 1996-97. Appropriately, her lecture was in memory of Keith Joseph, her intellectual mentor, the man who "discovered" his true conservatism after the party was defeated in February 1974. Lady Thatcher consciously echoed the themes of his Upminster and Preston speeches of June and September 1974 which were about how a Conservative Government had taken the wrong path towards collectivism.

All the reassuring public bromides of her staff and Central Office about a broad church and her support for the Prime Minister are nonsense. She clearly believes that the Major Government is going in the wrong direction, and is headed towards opposition. Her remarks about the Prime Minister were perfunctory, while she praised the standard bearers of the Right by name — Peter Lilley, Michael Howard, Michael Portillo and John Redwood.

Her analysis was that the party is in trouble not because it has moved to the right, but because it has not been Thatcherite enough. "We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government". Consequently, "it would make no economic sense at all for us to move closer to the policies of our opponents. Rather, the economic challenge is to cut back the burden of state spending, borrowing and taxation still further. And trying to move towards the centre ground makes no political sense either".

She wants a revolutionary programme for cutting down the size of the state. The commitment by Kenneth Clarke to bring down public spending below 40 per cent of national income is welcomed merely as a starting point with a plea for a manifesto commitment to bring it down "over a period of years by much more". A "really radical approach to spending, requiring large scale removal or transferral of government functions, must also remain on the agenda".

Her language, as much as her specific proposals, amount to a declaration of war on the Tory Left, as in the passage: "I am not sure what is meant by those who say the party should return to something called 'One Nation Conservatism'. As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as 'No Nation Conservatism'." She explictly wants a renegotiation of the European Communities Act of 1972 over the powers of the European Court and her other proposals would isolate Britain from the rest of the European Union.

But her own record was not quite as Thatcherite as she, and her fans, now like to remember. She compromised, both on public spending and on Europe. Her administrations found it as hard as the Major Government has to contain public spending, and to reduce its share well below 40 per cent, while she signed the Single European Act, which extended qualified majority voting.

However much she is dismissed by many Tory MPs as a voice from the past, her lecture was being acclaimed last night on the Right for reflecting the views of many disillusioned local activists and former Tory supporters: away with the cautious Fabianism of the Major years and hurrah for the true blue standard. She also offered a myth of betrayal by those in office every bit as politically explosive as that offered by Tony Benn after Labour lost in 1979. The difference is that the infighting has started before, rather than after, the party has lost office.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

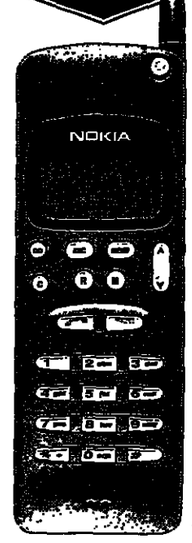
YESTERDAY In the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for John Major, who was in France for the funeral of Francois Mitterrand. Debate on Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, remaining stages.

In the Lords: debates on the Family Law Bill, committee stage, and the sale of the Transport Research Laboratory. TODAY: neither House is sitting.

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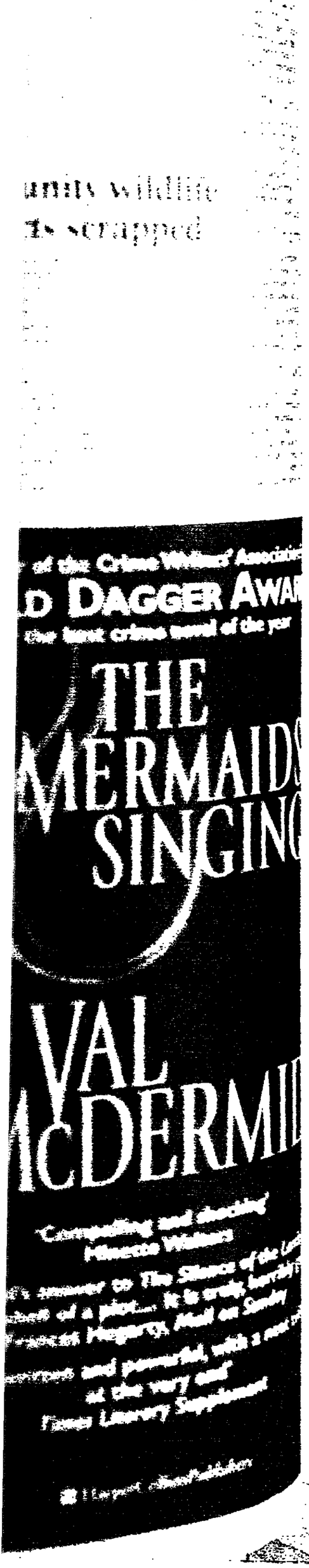
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صكزامن الأصل

Ceremonies reflect man who gloried in grandeur but was proud of rural roots

Family and France say separate farewells to Mitterrand



Among the mourners were, Danielle, left, M Mitterrand's widow, Jean-Christophe, their son, Mazarine, his illegitimate daughter, Anne Pingeot, her mother, and Gilbert, another son

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND was laid to rest at his birthplace in the small French town of Jarnac after a simple family funeral yesterday while a grand Requiem Mass attended by scores of dignitaries from across the globe took place in Notre-Dame in Paris.

The simultaneous ceremonies — one small and intimate, the other vast and public — reflected contrasting aspects of the former French President, who gloried in the pomp and grandeur of his office, while clinging proudly to his rural roots in southwest France.

M Mitterrand died on Monday at the age of 79 after a long battle with prostate cancer, just eight months after leaving office.

The former President insisted he did not want a state funeral and only his family and closest friends were invited to attend the funeral service in Jarnac's St Pierre Church, where M Mitterrand was baptised and where his parents married.

For the first time his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, 21, whose existence was not publicly acknowledged until 1994, appeared alongside the former President's two sons during the ceremonies, in accordance with her father's dying wishes. His long-time mistress, Anne Pingeot, Mazarine's mother, walked just a few paces behind his dignified widow, Danielle, as she led the funeral cortege through the narrow streets of Jarnac towards the church.

More than 1,300 mourners, including 61 heads of state, packed into Notre-Dame for a moving Requiem Mass in honour of the Socialist leader. It was broadcast live on French television.

Among those gathered to pay tribute were the Prince of Wales, John Major, President Chirac of France, Al Gore, the American Vice-President, President Yeltsin of Russia, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Sweden's King Carl XVI and President Mubarak of Egypt.

Tears ran down the face of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, M Mitterrand's closest European ally and partner in building closer European union, as Maurice Duruflé's Requiem echoed around the great 11th-century cathedral.



Kohl: shed tears for an ally and friend

Prince Charles, President Castro of Cuba and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, were also visibly moved by the ceremony, at which the American soprano Barbara Hendricks sang the *Pie Jesu* from Fauré's Requiem.

In his eulogy, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger recalled how M Mitterrand, a self-proclaimed agnostic, had pondered over the nature of death during his last years. Quoting M Mitterrand, Cardinal Lustiger noted in his sermon: "Death is what gives destiny its richness and meaning."

On the stroke of 11am, as both ceremonies were beginning, Métro trains in Paris were halted and schoolchildren across the country observed a minute's silence in homage to the former President. Flags flew at half-mast to mark a day of national mourning, but schools and offices remained open.

At dawn, the former President's body was taken from the Paris apartment where he died and flown to Cognac air base. His children and his black labrador, Baltik, accompanied the French leader on this final journey, as he had requested.

The coffin was then transported by hearse, flanked by dozens of motorcycle outriders, through the fields of M Mitterrand's youth to nearby Jarnac. In the town square, beneath funereal skies and a light rain, the former head of the French armed forces was accorded full military honours for the last time. As a military band played, the tricolour draped over his oak coffin was caught by the wind and fluttered to the ground, to be retrieved and replaced by his widow and his elder son, before the procession moved off slowly across the town.

Film cameras and other media were not permitted inside the church, but loudspeakers relayed the Mass to the thousands lining the street outside. The 200 people attending the Jarnac service included M Mitterrand's six surviving siblings, his closest political allies and a handful of other personal friends, including the actor Gérard Depardieu and the writer Françoise Sagan.

After the service the cortège paused briefly in front of the stone house, its door marked by a single bouquet of red roses, where M Mitterrand was born on October 26, 1916. Mourners then proceeded to Jarnac cemetery where France's longest-serving President was buried in the Mitterrand family tomb.

Friends and colleagues departed, leaving immediate family members to pay their last respects. Jarnac has a population of 2,000, but some ten times that number converged on the town yesterday. Later in the afternoon, the cemetery was opened to the waiting public.

M Mitterrand, as meticulous in death as in life, left behind detailed plans for all funeral arrangements: no speeches, no journalists at the cemetery and only two bouquets, one of roses and another of irises, to be placed on his coffin. His instructions were followed to the letter. The world leaders, crowned heads, government ministers, colleagues and friends of the late President appeared grave and subdued as they filed out of Notre-Dame to the strains of Bach's *St John's Passion*, with the exception of Mr Yeltsin who, with characteristic ebullience, raised his arms in a double clenched-fist salute to the waiting, and somewhat surprised, crowd.

"I'm in perfect health," the Russian President told reporters on his first foreign trip since suffering a heart attack in October.

After the service, Mr Major said: "President Mitterrand was a very big figure in European history. It will be recognised in due course, but I think his contemporaries understand that."

On the eve of yesterday's funeral, some 30,000 of M Mitterrand's supporters massed at Place de la Bastille square in Paris to mourn the Socialist leader. Many brought single red roses and others carried lighted candles as they stood in silence where Parisians celebrated his election more than 14 years ago.

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Romantic who shared city dwellers' love for the countryside of youth

By BEN MACINTYRE

SIMON WALKER



Thousands of Parisians gathered outside Notre-Dame to pay their respects

THE decision by François Mitterrand to eschew a state funeral in favour of burial in his hometown of Jarnac was less an act of modesty — a quality with which the former President was not overburdened — than a reflection of the rural romanticism lying just beneath the surface of almost every urban Frenchman and woman.

M Mitterrand was no exception. His veneration for the bucolic land of his childhood deep in southwestern France was genuine, but it was also politically useful.

Every summer he would be photographed and filmed, sitting beneath the trees at his country home in Les Landes, surrounded by his family, his dog at his feet. He would be seated, more often than not, at a table groaning with country produce.

Some of the more enjoyable footage shows the President on retreat, striding up the nearby Solutre hill with his political aides and acolytes trotting sweatily in his wake.

"A part of every man remains in the country of his youth," he once observed.

If the grandeur of Notre-Dame reflected Mitterrand, the world statesman, then the simple church at Jarnac represented Mitterrand, the "paysan" — a representative of "La France Profonde", the real France.

For all the haughty airs that earned him the nickname "Dieu", M Mitterrand also had the common touch, a talent amply testified to by those who converged on the Place de la Bastille on Wednesday night for the mass public rally in memory of the former President.

"He was remarkable man, but he was also one of us," said Marc Desalles, as he stood listening to the melancholy strains of Beethoven wafting across the Paris square as thousands stood in silent homage.

Hankering for a country past — however distant — goes a long way to explain not only M Mitterrand's appeal but also, by contrast, the unpopularity of the Government that succeeded him.

President Chirac, Alain Juppé, his Prime Minister and the rest of the Cabinet are widely (and in some cases unfairly) seen as metropolitan northerners, technocrats educated at elite schools who are out of touch with the earthy roots of France.

Government efforts to overhaul the rail network, threatening the closure of the hundreds of tiny branch lines that nourish the country's deepest corners, is cited as further proof that the new regime has little sympathy for the France that lies beyond the suburbs.

Here, too, the late M Mitterrand could strike a chord. He was, as he liked to remind his countrymen, the son of the stationmaster for the town of Angoulême, only a few miles from Jarnac.

There, in a tribute echoing one of M Mitterrand's first acts as President in 1981, mourners gathered by his tomb, in pouring rain, red rose in hand, leaving the flowers piled high. After the former President was elected amid revolutionary fervour 15 years ago, he went to stand, clutching a red rose, before the tombs of France's great figures at the Pantheon in Paris.



ARTS 32-34

Sound link between Debussy and the bearded seal



EDUCATION 30

Student loans need to be reassessed



SPORT 35-40

Rusedksi on the march in Australia

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38,39

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1996

Sell-off at Sears may cost 1,700 jobs

By Sarah Bagnall

LIAM STRONG, chief executive at Sears, the retail group, yesterday unveiled a £65 million restructuring that could involve the loss of at least 1,700 jobs.

Sears announced it intends to sell — or close — its Saxone and Curtess high street shoe chains and dispose of Millets and its Dutch shoe business. If a buyer for the British shoe businesses fails to materialise the 1,100 Saxone stores and 124 Curtess outlets will be closed with the loss of the 1,700 full-time equivalent jobs.

Sears, the Selfridges department store to Freemans catalogue group, is in talks with several potential buyers for the loss-making businesses. Stephen Hinchliffe, who acquired Freeman Hardy Willis, True Form and Manfield from Sears in August, is said to be one of the interested parties.

The withdrawal from the two shoe formats will create annual savings of £8 million. Further cost savings of up to £33 million will be made from Sears' decision to out-source its information technology and accounting systems to Andersen Consulting and to restructure its distribution systems.

Referring to the planned disposal of businesses, Mr Strong said: "These mark an end to the clearing out." The news was greeted with dismay by City institutions who believe Sears should become more focused and sell off other parts of its operations. Institutions also expressed concerns.

Sears had flat like-for-like sales in the six weeks to January 6. Underlying sales at British Shoe fell 10.9 per cent, Selfridges lifted like-for-like sales 10.7 per cent and Freemans 6.9 per cent, clothing was flat.

Tempus, page 24

Woolwich and Alliance plan market flotations

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER Building Society will announce plans early next month for a £2.5 billion stock market listing, hard on the heels of yesterday's £3 billion flotation plans from its rival the Woolwich.

A&L, which owns Girobank, refused to comment on its plans to float yesterday, but said: "We have made no secret of the fact that we are considering a number of options, including the possibility of conversion to public company. The board has made no decision yet and the announcement by the Woolwich will in no way influence our timing in this matter." The society is expected to announce plans to pay an average £900 each to its three million qualifying savers and borrowers next month.

This means both A&L and Woolwich will be coming to the stock market during 1997.

The Woolwich's three million qualifying savers and 550,000 qualifying borrowers will receive an average of an estimated £1,000 in a free share distribution next year. By modelling its flotation plans on those of the Halifax, it hopes to avoid a court case, though it has yet to receive approval from the Building Societies Commission.

Those who have held accounts for less than two years will receive a flat payout of shares worth between £500 and £750, while those with accounts of two or more years of standing will receive an additional variable payment depending on the size of the account.

The society was forced to close its doors to new depositors on Wednesday night after rumours that it was about to announce flotation plans prompted 30,000 people to open accounts on Monday and Tuesday in the hope of receiving a bonus. That compares with an average of 1,000 new accounts a day.

JAMES MORGAN



Floating voters: Peter Robinson, left, Woolwich chief executive, with Sir Brian Jenkins, the chairman, yesterday

To qualify for the free shares, Woolwich investing members must have held at least £100 in their accounts on the cut-off date of December 31. Those who opened accounts this year will not benefit. Peter Robinson, the chief executive, said: "I have no concern about not enfranchising carpet-baggers."

To assess the variable payments to members, the Woolwich will take amounts in an account on 31 December and on another date to be fixed before flotation. The payment will be based on the lowest figure.

Mr Robinson said that the society needed to convert because as a plc it would be able "to combat the gathering threat of increased competition". The society believed size was important "and will become increasingly so".

City observers believe the society might use the flotation to raise additional capital for the acquisition of a mutual insurance company. Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, said: "The Woolwich has taken a calculated risk by effectively putting itself up for sale before conversion."

Flotation will probably be in the autumn. After that the new bank would be safe from predators for at least five years as there would be a 15 per cent limit on share ownership.

Mr Robinson accepted that the period between announcement and flotation "will stimulate interest in the Woolwich from existing companies who wish to establish partnership or wish to absorb us into their business. We have no wish, indeed no need, to transfer control into the hands of a third party. We are big in the core markets which we intend to stay in."

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Mutual attraction, page 25
***City Diary*, page 25**

Bank tries to stop another Barings

By George Sivell

THE Bank of England has sent to the Commons Treasury Select Committee a copy of its progress report on plugging gaps in the financial system that were revealed by the Barings collapse.

The committee, which is examining discrepancies in reports by the British and Singaporean authorities on the £860 million Barings collapse, approved publication of the progress report, released yesterday.

Bank of England officials say that they have reviewed 15 of 17 recommendations made by the Board of Banking Supervision report on Barings published last July. Two more recommendations are being considered by Arthur Andersen, the consultants called in by the Bank last October to review the quality its supervision of the financial system.

The Bank progress report says that a framework has been established to measure the risks to which a banking group is exposed. Banks will be asked whether any operation in the group involves more than 5 per cent of capital or whether it makes or loses 5 per cent of profits or losses. In an echo of the Barings collapse, exposures of more than 10 per cent of a bank's capital to another part of the group will be examined.

Banks have also been asked to nominate a main board director to take responsibility for filing financial details to the Bank of England. They will be expected to meet the Bank at least once a year.

In future, consolidation of non-banking operations into the main bank for regulatory purposes, as happened with Barings Singapore and the main Barings bank will require approval by the Bank of England Governor or the director of banking supervision.

On the vital question of international co-operation with other regulators, the Bank says there "is no agreed international model on how regulators ... should relate" and that there "could be legal impediments".

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3654.9	(-16.)
Yield	3.93	
FT-SE A All share	1791.49	(-8.4)
Nikkei	20377.92	(-234.4)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5058.59	(+25.65)
S&P Composite	600.93	(+2.45)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/16%*	(5
Long Bond	100 7/16*	(10
Yield	6.18%*	(6.18

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 15/16%	(6 15/16)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	110 3/32	(110

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5445*	(1.547
London:		
$	1.5439	(1.545
DM	2.2221	(2.225
FFr	7.6290	(7.622
SFr	1.7923	(1.790
Yen	161.76	(162.5
£ Index	83.0	(83.1

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4403*	(1.435
FFr	4.9410*	(4.918
SFr	1.1615*	(1.162
Yen	104.75*	(104.8
$ Index	94.5	(94.6

Tokyo close Yen 104.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar) $17.60 ($18.00

GOLD

London close $398.75 ($398.75

* denotes midday trading price

BP disposals

BP is to sell two of its oil refineries and shut down part of a third, leaving the oil giant with 11 around the world. The disposals highlight the problem of overcapacity in the oil industry. The two refineries up for sale are Lima in the United States and Lavera in France. **Page 23**

Trafalgar sale

Persimmon, the housebuilder is in talks with debt-laden Trafalgar House about buying its Ideal Homes subsidiary and expects to announce a deal by the end of this month. Beazer said it was "surprised and disappointed" at this news because it had made an offer that had been ignored. **Page 26**

Signet puts high street chains on the market

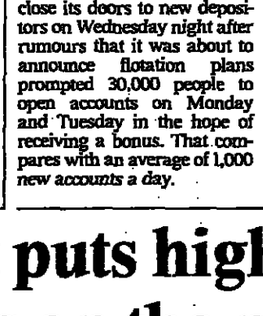
By Sarah Bagnall

SIGNET GROUP, the former Ratners jewellery business, has put its Ernest Jones and H Samuel chains up for sale in a move that could realise up to £300 million and help to secure the group's financial future.

A number of companies are thought to be interested in buying the businesses, which hold the largest share of the British jewellery market and account for 40 per cent of group sales. The interested parties are said to include Gerald Ratner, whose name the company used to bear, Argos, the catalogue retailer with a strong presence in the jewellery market, Goldsmiths, the jewellers, and Next, the fashion retailer.

Mr Ratner is said to be trying to obtain backing to purchase H Samuel, the bigger of the two chains. Goldsmiths has said it is interested in acquiring both businesses or just Ernest Jones, while Argos management indicated an interest last year. Next is said to be in the process of forming a consortium with a view to making an offer.

James McAdam, Signet's chairman, said: "There have been a lot of people sniffing around. There is considerable interest in the businesses. But we will only sell them if we can get the price we want." Proceeds will be used to pay down the group's £350 million of debt. This would help profitability as interest payments would be reduced to realistic levels. The news was welcomed by rebel shareholders, who hold a mixture of preference and ordinary shares giving them 22.3 per cent voting power. A spokesman said: "We are very pleased. The selling of the UK business is what we suggested last year and it's finally happening."



McAdam: playing it cool

The sale would leave Signet with Sterling, the second biggest jewellery retailer in the US, which contributes 60 per cent of group sales. The development came as Signet revealed that pre-tax profits for the year to February 3 would exceed forecasts. Analysts lifted predictions from between £15 million and £18 million to £20 million, compared to last year's £8.1 million.

Pennington, page 23

UK manufacturing static in November

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

BRITISH manufacturing activity was stagnant in November, prompting the City to speculate on the outside chance of another base rate cut next week when the Chancellor meets the Governor of the Bank of England.

The Central Statistical Office said that it now estimates that manufacturing is growing at a rate of only 0.5 per cent a year. Taking the average of the last three months, a good guide to the overall trend, manufacturing fell 0.1 per cent compared with the previous three months. This is the first time there has been a fall between two three-month periods since August 1993.

Industrial production, which includes the output of the North Sea and energy production, rose 0.5 per cent as demand for gas and electricity bounced back after October's unusually warm weather.

The lack of growth in manufacturing in November reflects not only weaker domestic demand but also the impact of very high stock levels, built up throughout last year, and a weakening in exports.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the situation for manufacturing could get worse as companies run down their stocks and that it is difficult to see a decent recovery until the second half of this year when growth in America and Europe may be a bit stronger. He said that base rates will fall over the next few months, predicting the first cut next week.

The slowdown in Europe was highlighted yesterday by figures showing that German gross domestic product rose only 1.9 per cent in 1995, down from 2.9 per cent the year before. Economists argued that the 1995 figure could be revised sharply lower. It was particularly worrying that western German GDP increased only 1.5 per cent.

Mercury spree takes Forte stake to 15%

By Eric Reguly

MERCURY Asset Management, the fund manager that played a key role in ensuring the success of Granada's takeover of London Weekend Television, disclosed yesterday that it had bought 12 million additional shares in Forte. Independent analysts said that its buying spree suggests it is betting that Granada's £3.8 billion hostile offer for Forte will win.

MAM bought the 12 million shares at market prices over the past few days. It now owns 144 million Forte shares, or 15.2 per cent of the company and is the single biggest Forte shareholder. At the closing price of 368½p, up 8½p, those shares are valued at about £530 million. It also bought a further 1.1 million Granada shares, raising its stake to 14.5 per cent.

MAM would not say why it had bought so many Forte shares. It is understood that decisions to buy were made by individual fund managers within the group looking for a "cheap way of getting into Granada", assuming, of course, that Granada wins.

Granada has offered four new Granada shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forte shares. It has also offered a special dividend of 47p, which is worth about 59p with the tax credit. Arbitrageurs have figured out that buying a Forte share at the market price in effect would give them a Granada share for 580p to 600p against Granada's closing share price of 664p, up 11p.

One analyst said: "If MAM thought the bid wasn't going to go through, I doubt they would be buying."

Both Granada and Forte doubt they can win the battle unless they secure the allegiance of Carol Galley, MAM's joint vice-chairman. In 1994, she held the key to Granada's hostile £724 million bid for LWT. MAM backed Granada's bid and it won.

More than 40 million Forte shares, or about 2 per cent of the share capital, were traded yesterday on top of the 48 million shares traded on Wednesday.

In other developments, hotel experts said plans by Forte or Granada to sell luxury hotels could depress prices across the sector. Alex Kyriakidis, head of the hotel group at Arthur Andersen Consulting, said: "There is a problem of too much supply." He notes that the Langham Hilton in London has been on the market for about £100 million for about six months and that Britannia Inter-Continental is now up for auction.

Pennington, page 23

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Comparison of the average interest rates paid for a £50,000 deposit between Cater Allen Bank and the average of the four major clearing banks for 1, 3 and 6 months from January 1994 to December 1995. Source: Moneyfacts – Moneymarket Time Deposits.

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Patten challenges Peking to set up democratic council

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHRIS PATTEN, Hong Kong's Governor, yesterday challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council here and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law.

Earlier, British officials in Peking had enthused about an improvement in Sino-British relations after three days of talks between Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Chinese ministers. It was difficult to see, however, what had been achieved.

Despite the high hopes raised by Mr Rifkind's first visit to China, and the gloss he put on his meetings with Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, it was clear last night that little progress had been made on the two main points at issue: the retention of the Legislative Council after the transfer of sovereignty in June 1997, and a greater role for Mr Patten.

The point was reinforced yesterday when Mr Qian said that abolition of the Legislative Council in 1997 was not negotiable.

Mr Patten, meanwhile, speaking on Hong Kong's government radio station, questioned whether Peking intended to set up a fairly elected legislative body or "a cardboard cut-out, or a counterfeit".

The remark will outrage Peking, which describes Mr Patten's constitutional changes, including the elected council, as a violation of British-Chinese agreements on the political structure of the colony in the run-up to 1997. Peking says it will establish a "provisional council" on July 1, 1997, and hold elections for a substitute body at a later date.

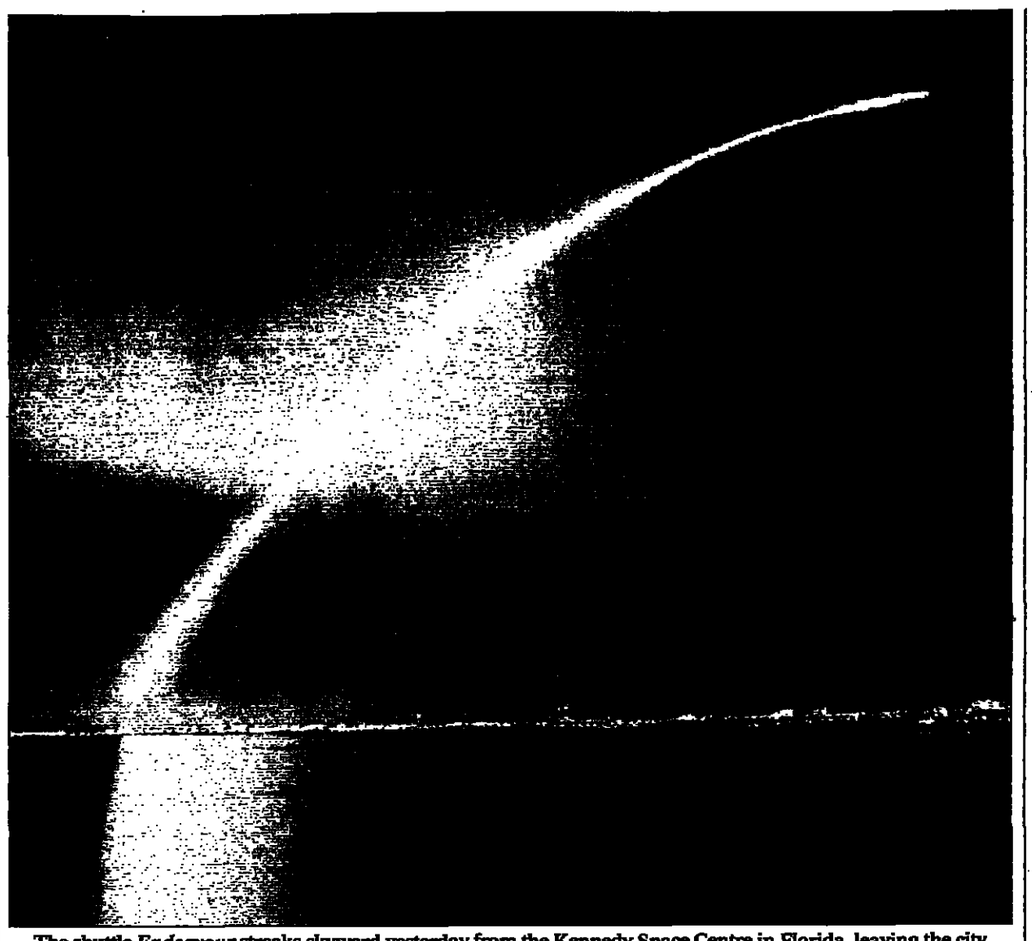
On the question of raising important issues, Mr Patten said: "I will continue to speak up for the rule of law and freedom of speech." He said he intended, courteously, to continue to debate political matters with the Chinese, insisting that acquiescence would mean "breaking promises to the people of Hong Kong".

After what Mr Rifkind described as a "substantive" 70-minute meeting with President Jiang Zemin — 30 minutes longer than scheduled — he told reporters: "I was pleased to hear him give repeated emphasis to the importance China attached for the autonomy of Hong Kong and its determination to respect that autonomy."

Asked about the Legislative Council, Mr Rifkind said: "That position has not changed . . . I believe it would be of considerable damage to confidence in Hong Kong if the council was dismantled and we hope the Chinese Government will reflect on that matter".

☐ **Bush plea:** The former US President George Bush has called for a new dialogue with China. Talking in Hong Kong after meeting Chinese leaders in Peking, he warned against American isolationism as China develops into a world power. (*AFP*)

Letters, page 17



The shuttle *Endeavour* streaks skyward yesterday from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, leaving the city of Cocoa Beach on the right. A crew of six will undertake a nine-day satellite retrieval and scientific mission

Dissident warns of threat to Dominica

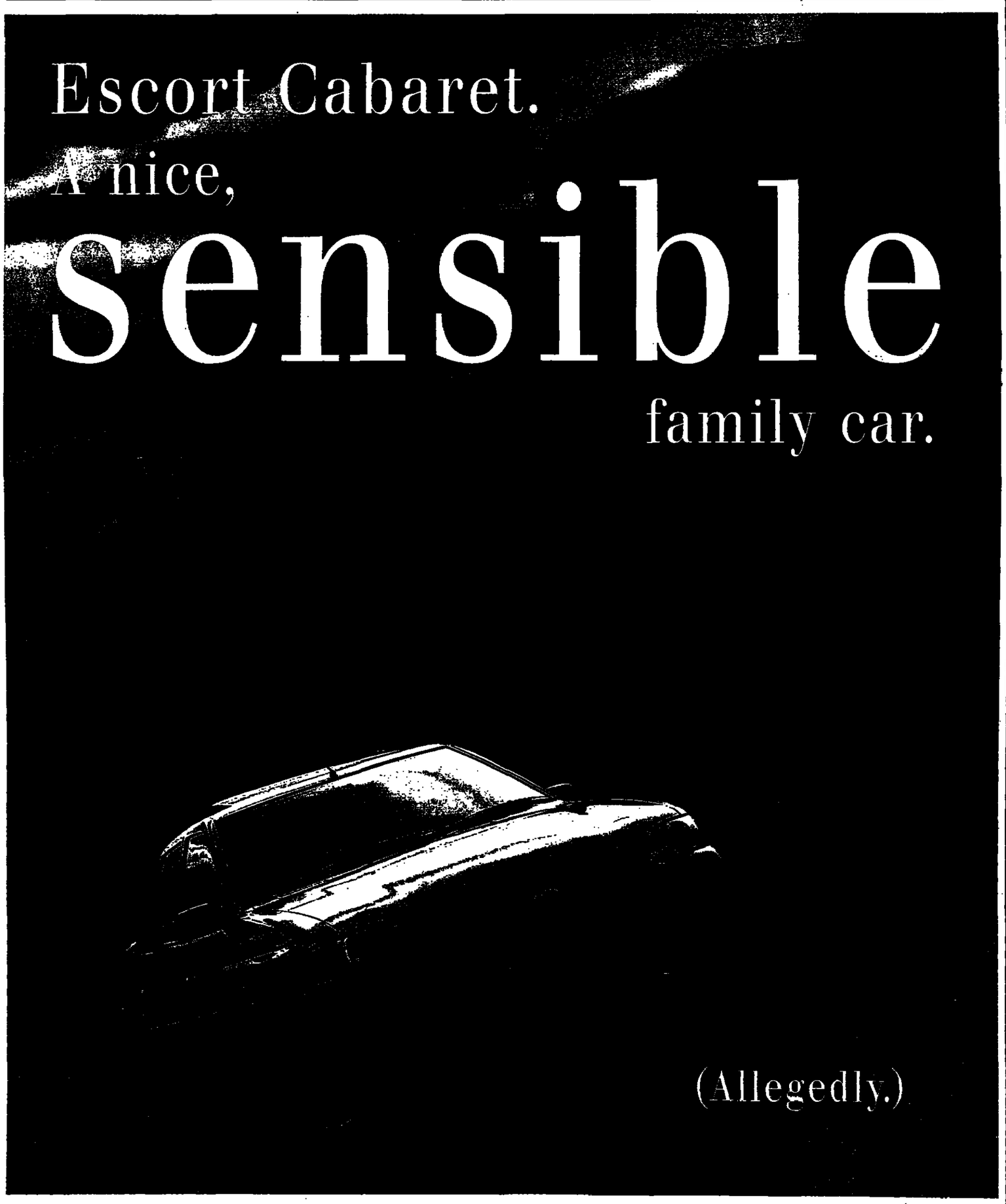
BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Saudi dissident, Dr Muhammad al-Masari, facing deportation from Britain, gave a warning yesterday that his arrival in Dominica would endanger safety on the Caribbean island.

Speaking shortly after handing in his appeal papers contesting the order by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Dr Masari said he fully agreed with Rosi Douglas, the opposition leader in Dominica, that his presence on the island would be a threat to its safety. He said Dominica had only 300 police, who could not stop a mercenary force of 50 to 60 people who might be sent to eliminate him.

"The country is simply too small," Dr Masari said. He had discussed the issue with Mr Douglas during his visit to Britain on Tuesday and noted that the opposition would move a vote of no-confidence in the island's Government.

Dr Masari, an Islamic activist, also denied a report in today's *Jewish Chronicle* that he had links with an Islamic group in Britain which had threatened Jewish students.



At first glance the Cabaret would seem to be the ideal choice for all those family outings.

What with central double locking, electric front windows and an anti-theft alarm it's certainly not lacking in refinement. But look a little closer.

The wheels are five spoke alloys.† Then there's the rear spoiler and sport style bumpers. Notice how they're colour coded to match the metallic body paint.†† (Just one of six colours available.)

Be under no illusions. The Cabaret is more than just an average family saloon.

Under the bonnet is a Zetec 1.6i, 16 valve engine. Although we've a choice of 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo diesel if you prefer.

But with an on the road price* of £12,200 (a mere £11,600 for the 1.4i), this sporty edition could be the most sensible family car you're ever likely to buy.

Ford

†Not available on 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo Diesel. ††Standard only on 1.6i. *On the road price includes Recommended Retail Price, delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs of number plates and fuel. Vehicle shown:- Escort Cabaret 1.6i. Also available Escort Cabaret 1.8 Turbo Diesel - £12,600 on the road.

Socialists take on Tokyo's poisoned finance chalice

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN announced a conservative-dominated Cabinet yesterday under Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Prime Minister, with key posts for the Liberal Democratic Party and finance going to the Socialists.

The post of Finance Minister has always been regarded as one of the most powerful positions. However, recent financial scandals and problems, including a government plan to use nearly 700 billion yen (£4 billion) in taxpayers' money to liquidate financially troubled housing loan firms, has taken the lustre off the portfolio.

Mr Hashimoto is known to have offered the post to numerous senior LDP politicians, but they all turned it down. The Liberal Democrats have taken on the key posts of home affairs and defence.

The strategic block of parliamentary votes held by the Socialists ensured the party a strong representation in the previous coalition administration. The portfolios of finance and defence were regarded as too sensitive to be given to the party.

Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialist Party, agreed to take the finance post, reportedly on the basis that he will also serve as Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Hashimoto appointed Yukihiko Ikeda, a former Defence Minister and LDP colleague, as Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda will have to face the difficult task of handling Japan's relations with the United States, amid growing opposition from the southern island of Okinawa to the presence of US military bases.

Hashimoto victory seals tilt to Right

BY PAUL CARTER

THE election of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Liberal Democratic Party leader, as the Prime Minister of Japan consolidates the success of right-wing forces.

With the main opposition New Frontier Party led by Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP strongman, the political situation is akin to having Michael Portillo and John Redwood in charge of the two main parties in Britain.

This renewed entrenchment of the Right is extraordinary for, after the general election of July 1993, the 38-year period of continuous LDP rule ended and power was assumed by an eight-party coalition intent on changing the direction of politics and breaking what had become one-party dominated rule. What went wrong?

Part of the answer lies with the split in the LDP which precipitated the 1993 election, prompted by the younger members' impatience with the septuagenarians who ran the party. It was Mr Ozawa who passionately argued the need for change and initiated what became known as the *futsu no kuni* or "normal country" debate. To Mr Ozawa, "normal country" equates with one which can defend itself independently.

The strong-arm tactics and backroom defection deals of Mr Ozawa eventually led to the formation of the 170-member New Frontier Party which last year proved its ability as a credible fighting force when it won 54 of the 84 seats on offer in the Upper House elections. Since 1993 the Socialists have been bounced between coalitions like a political football, eventually forming an unusual alliance with the LDP under the temporary caretaker prime ministership of Tomiichi Murayama. During this time, to make their marriage to the LDP work and in the hope of engaging the electorate's trust, the Socialists recanted all of their key policies. After the resignation of Mr Murayama and the sidelining of the Socialists, the Right has again reasserted itself in government under Mr Hashimoto.



Hashimoto: wants seat on the Security Council

Moreover, now the leadership of the two main parties has skipped a generation, Japanese politics is faced with the relatively youthful Mr Hashimoto, aged 58, and Mr Ozawa, 53. The desire for change which led to the initial split of the LDP is still apparent, with both leaders being vocal in their support for Japan's claim of permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and both arguing for constitutional change.

With the Socialists sidelined a political scenario has arisen where two conservative parties vie for power. Mr Ozawa and the Right have clearly won the "normal country" debate. Whether this result was serendipitous or sheer Machiavellianism on the part of Mr Ozawa, the emergence of two main conservative parties and the expectation of high Socialist Party losses in the next election does raise fears about the legitimacy of a democracy whose opposition and governing party is represented by a conservative block with few if any balancing factors.

Paul Carter researches Japanese politics at the Centre for International Studies, University of Cambridge.

☐ Woolwich sets out its stock market stall ☐ Signet signals a British sell-off ☐ Weighting bid prices with public money

Mutual admiration society

☐ PETER ROBINSON has a nerve, complaining about the "carpet-baggers" who have pitched up at Woolwich as investors merely in the hope of sharing in the largesse from demutualisation.

The progress of the Woolwich towards a stock market flotation was hardly the best kept secret in the City. Instead the market has been massaged for months before yesterday's announcement by enticing titbits of information.

No surprise, therefore, that arbitrageurs have decided to take positions at the Woolwich, as at any other building society where management have not explicitly set their faces against going public. That rather arbitrary December 31 deadline is not going to weed out all of these.

But the Woolwich has handled it all rather better than the Alliance & Leicester, its main rival in the race towards the stock market, which late last year found its systems overwhelmed by the volume of punters wanting to place a bet. Yesterday's news will also have greatly discomfited the A & L, despite that building society's studied air of nonchalance, because the two were always perceived to be in a race that the Woolwich has now won.

Investors in other building societies presented with similar unexpected gift horses over the course of this year will not be too inclined to count their teeth. But the race to demutualisation will have its non-runners, and their motives should be respected.

There is nothing wrong with opting to remain a small building society with an established regional client base trading out of a limited number of premises. Such societies will never lack investors or borrowers, and mutual status provides some protection from an expansion-crazed financial services sector.

The British banking sector has for years served as the perfect testing ground for Hutber's First Law, that improvement equals deterioration. So those societies that decide to go public should also have their motives strongly scrutinised. The Woolwich strategy yesterday was dressed up with a suspicious amount of corporate verbiage, but quotation will lead to enough useful avenues to explore that would be closed to a mutual society.

Those building societies stranded in the middle, with no clear reason to stay mutual and no real expansion strategy, will simply be swallowed up. Shed a tear here for the Nationwide, reputation and loan book in tatters, which will either be taken out if a rich enough owner can be found or limp along for years as the favourite to finish last.

Wheel of fortune

☐ FORGET crystal decanters, forget gold earrings with the life expectancy of a Marks & Spencer prawn sandwich. The day Gerald Ratner's runaway mouth sealed his fate was in 1987, when he said "yes" to the $200 million purchase of Sterling.



Mr Ratner's karmic wheel might just be about to turn again, because he must be among the candidates to buy back the British arm of his former creation.

Such a reversal might appeal to sentimentalists, but it is not the most obvious outcome of the decidedly rum decision by Signet to put its two British chains, H Samuel and Ernest Jones, up for sale. Mr Ratner is not the frontrunner; a more likely purchaser is Jurek Piasecki at Goldsmiths Group, the man who has most successfully traded on Mr Ratner's eclipse. Signet spent most of 1995 insisting the two chains were not about to be sold to Mr Piasecki, despite increasingly loud hints to the contrary from that quarter. The board's change of tack, the party line now goes, has nothing to do with the still unresolved row with Signet's rebel shareholders, a stroppy band of mercenaries well hardened by earlier corporate battles who have 20 per cent of the votes.

If so, there is only one other credible reason for it. Christmas for Signet this year was a good one, in the US if not in Britain. But first-half trading last year was poor, and jewellery is such a volatile business that future trade could go both ways.

A sale would leave a reasonably well-financed US retailer with a London quote, a situation that would have to be amended in due course. It would also take much of the ammunition away from the rebels, by cutting debts of £350 million by the £250 million or so that the British chains are worth and so lessening any future pressure for financial restructuring.

A special fate for special dividends

☐ GRANADA is not to be blamed for deploying the weapon of a special dividend, because such payments already have an established if dishonourable history.

Last year, regional electricity companies were found to have so much cash that such dividends helped to fund their own demise by providing a built-in boost to predators' offers. As the fad caught on, it was taken up in Lloyds Bank's merger with TSB. But there are two clear objections to them as part of bid terms.

They contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the City Takeover Code. This demands that all shareholders be offered equal terms. But such payments deliberately offer pension funds terms of higher value than those offered to most private investors. Gross funds can reclaim 20p in tax for every 80p they receive in net dividends, for instance making the Granada bid worth 3 per cent more. When will the Takeover Panel act?

They also require taxpayers to help to pay for takeover bids that are increasingly mistrusted by the general public. Most City financiers had assumed the special dividend loophole would be closed in November's Budget. But there is still time to amend the Finance Bill.

Trafalgar Homeless

☐ THE sale of Ideal Homes by Trafalgar House — henceforth to be known as Trafalgar Homeless, presumably — represents a concentration of focus that should find a place in the management consultancy textbooks. After the sale of a profitable housebuilder, Trafalgar can no longer be dubbed a mixed conglomerate. Instead, it will be almost entirely devoted to the business of making losses.

BP to make big cuts in refining operations

BY CARL MORTISHED

BP is to make huge cutsbacks in its refining operations with the sale of two plants in the United States and France and the partial closure of a third in the Netherlands. The $1.1 billion cost of the closure and sales will be taken as an exceptional charge to after-tax profits for the fourth quarter of 1995.

The cuts are designed to bring BP's loss-making refining operations back into profit. The move follows the sale in November of the Marcus Hook refinery in the US, and the combined effect of that sale and yesterday's planned disposals and closure will reduce refining capacity from 2 million to 1.4 million barrels per day, well below BP's own product requirement of 1.8 million barrels per day. The refinery cutbacks will bring BP in line with the industry leaders which typically refine less product than they sell. Overcapacity has created a buyer's market for oil products.

BP plans to sell its Lima refinery in Ohio, which is surplus to marketing requirements. The company intends to upgrade its Toledo, Ohio, refinery with a $200 million investment programme. The Lavera refinery in the south of France will also be sold and the Pernis section of the Nerefco refinery in Rotterdam, jointly owned with Texaco, will be closed with the loss of 350 jobs.

BP will be left with 11 refineries worldwide and John Browne, chief executive, said the company was determined that its assets should be among the top 25 per cent in efficiency and profitability.

Refineries are under pressure worldwide because of excess capacity and sluggish demand. BP reckons that global refining margins were only $1.70 per barrel last year. They have since improved to $2.40 but the company expects deterioration as new refineries in Asia come on stream this year. Mr Browne said that debottlenecking and efficiency improvements at existing plants was further increasing capacity at the rate of 0.7 per cent per year.

The exceptional charge includes $610 million for anticipated losses on sale and closure costs. A further provision of $465 million relates to provision for potential environmental liabilities. BP has spent $1.3 billion over the last three years bringing six of its refineries up to its top quartile standard and intends to bring the remaining five up to the same level. However, Mr Brown said that the disposal would mean that annual investment in refining of $450 million would be reduced to $300 million. He said that the company would not rule out partnerships with investors for the Lavera and Lima refineries if an outright sale could not be achieved. He indicated that closure also remained an option

Tempus, page 24

Reg Vardy's record six months

NEW dealerships and strong organic growth in vehicle sales and aftersales helped Reg Vardy, the Sunderland motor dealer, to a 22.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £6.15 million in the six months to October 31 (Philip Pangalos writes).

Peter Vardy, chairman, said the period was the "busiest in the group's history", boosted by several new dealerships and the key N registration month of August. Turnover expanded by 51.6 per cent to £279.8 million.

The interim dividend is raised 12.5 per cent to 2.25p (2p), payable on April 30, from earnings ahead 20 per cent to 9p (7.5p) a share. The shares dipped 4p to 269p.

Matthew Clark boycotts alcoholic soft drinks

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MATTHEW CLARK, the drinks company which is the biggest cider producer in the UK, yesterday pledged not to produce an alcoholic soft drink and added its voice to the growing criticism over the drink, which this week led to the main drinks companies adopting a code of conduct.

Peter Aikens, chief executive of the company, which comprises Gaymer and Taunton cider, said: "We won't produce one because we do not agree with drinks being aimed at such young people."

Although cider is traditionally a younger person's drink, Mr Aikens said he was confident the company's brands could not be mistaken for more innocuous drink.

The company is also in talks with its largest customers on whether it should weaken its cider brands before October, when a new tax will hit ciders above 7.5 per cent alcohol content. The tax of 8p a pint, announced in the last Budget, would affect premium brands such as Diamond White.

Mr Aikens said: "We are discussing who would bear the brunt of the cost, and if our customers decided they would prefer a lower strength, then we could produce it."

The company, which bought Taunton last November, plans to spend about £18.5 million on restructuring, but estimates cost savings of £11 million a year. It said it had achieved higher cost savings than anticipated from the absorption of Gaymer, which it bought last year, and was realising benefits of £10 million a year, £1 million ahead of its predictions.

Matthew Clark, which more than doubled its half-year pre-tax profits on the contribution of Gaymer from £7.2 million to £15.4 million, cast a cloud over its performance — which had benefited from a growth in the cider market and demand for its mineral water — with a decline in wholesale operating profits.

Overall margins at the wholesale units fell by an average of one percentage point, while operating profits fell 11 per cent to £1.9 million.

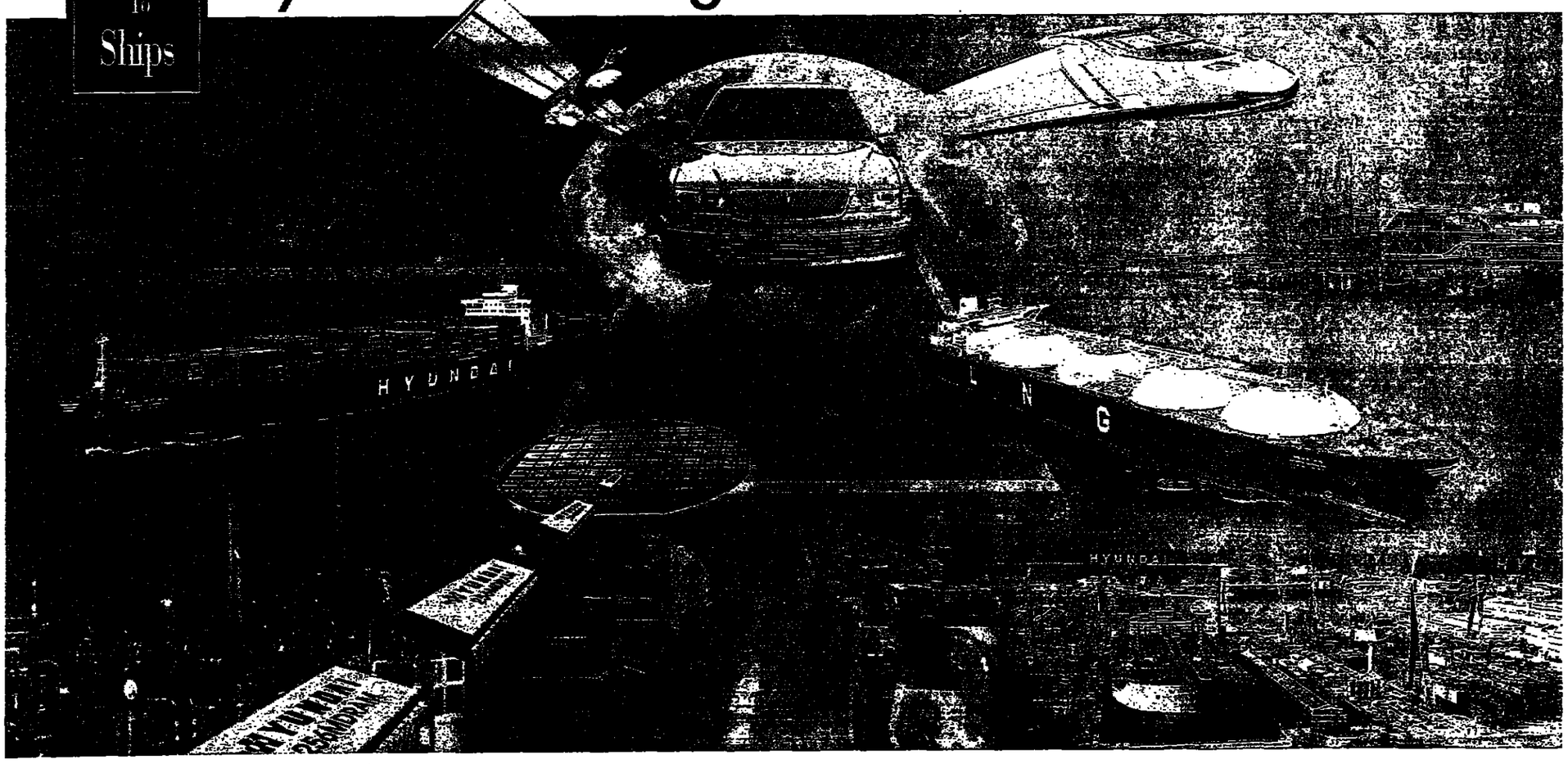
Last month the company bought Griersons, the country's third largest wholesaler, from Forte.

The interim dividend, payable April 9, was lifted 12.5 per cent to 9p.

Tempus, page 24

From Chips To Ships

Hyundai. Working Towards A Better Tomorrow.



For half a century, Hyundai Business Group has been working towards a single goal. The goal of making this world a more comfortable and better place to live for everyone. Today we have earned a place in your daily lives.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Market-makers fight back to stem slide

SHARES on the London stock market put up a resilient performance in the face of the near 100-point fall in the Dow Jones average overnight on Wall Street.

Market-makers were quick off the mark in order to deter potential sellers and it appears that their tactics met with some success. At one stage the FT-SE 100 index was down more than 26 points, but it later rallied, helped by an opening rally in New York, to close off the bottom with a fall of 16.6 points at 3,654.9 on turnover of 865 million shares.

The sharp fall on Wall Street had been anticipated for some time. The failure to resolve the deadlock over the US federal budget deficit provided the opportunity for the correction to be made.

Brokers in London said there was little genuine selling pressure as institutional investors continued to take a bullish view of prospects over the medium term.

There were also other factors underpinning the market. Large sums, accrued following the expiry of five-year Tessa schemes, need to be reinvested as will the profits accrued if Granada wins control of Forte.

There appears to be no shortage of takeover speculation, with traders convinced that another blue chip will soon find itself under the hammer. The money yesterday was resting on **Grand Metropolitan**, up 4½p at 449p, and **Ladbroke**, 4p stronger at 152p. Talk that **Bass**, down 7p at 710p, may want to bid for Ladbroke has been revived.

There was further heavy turnover in Forte as the arbitrageurs continued to take a keen interest by gambling on a Granada victory. By the close a total of 40.5 million Forte shares had been traded as the price edged forward another 8½p to 368½p. **Granada**, which earlier this week raised its offer to £3.8 billion, also climbed 11p to 664p.

United Biscuits came under late pressure, falling 16p to 254p, as dealers expressed disappointment with the revised terms of the Keebler frozen foods disposal.

The stores sector attracted a good deal of attention as the leading players continued to account for trading conditions in the busy run-up to Christmas. The market gave a lukewarm response to news of a 5.5 per cent increase in sales at Boots during the 13 weeks to December 31. Chemist operations made most of the running, but Halfords was flat and Do It All saw a decline. The shares finished 7p lower at 591p.

Carpetright responded positively to a bullish performance, rising 15p to 429p. During the first six months of the year pre-tax profits grew from £8.05 million to £10.1 million with earnings up nearly one-third. Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman, said the group currently had 221 stores but planned to double that number within the next two to three years.

The news from stores like Sears and Storehouse was gloomy, prompting brokers to downgrade their profit forecasts for the current year. **Storehouse** fell 21p to 300p after reporting static sales in the six week run-up to Christmas, but increased gross margins resulted in higher profits.

The news was little better from Sears, with the group now planning to halt the rot by closing its Saxone and Curtess shoe shops and selling Millets and Sears Retail (Holland). The measures are likely to cost £65 million. The picture was made worse by the decline in overall sales, mainly the result of a near 12 per cent decline in sales at British Shoe. BZW has slashed its profit estimate for Sears in the current year by £10 million to £105 million. It has also reduced its estimate for Storehouse from £115 million to £107 million. **Sears** ended 1½p higher at 99½p.

There was some good news at long last for shareholders of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems (MDIS) as it emerged that Geac Computer Corporation has acquired a near 4 per cent stake in the company. **MDIS** ended 9p *higher at 59p.*

Matthew Clark, the cider maker, failed to benefit from pre-tax profits that more than doubled. The shares fell 4p to 689p. The group said the improvement had been fuelled by better than expected savings from Gaymers. The good news was undermined by a slide in margins at its wholesale division.

A report in *The Times* lifted **Cable and Wireless** 4p to 460p. The report confirmed that C&W failed to agree terms with American Telephone and Telegraph last year over the sale of its Mercury telecom business. Traders in London take the view that AT&T will not let the matter rest there and come back with a definite offer. This could leave the way open for a full bid for C&W from **BT**, 2½p easier at 355p.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Prices opened lower, reflecting overnight falls in US Treasury bonds and continental bond markets. But the appearance of a few bargain hunters provided the signal for a rally, with prices edging back into positive territory by lunchtime. This proved short-lived, with US Treasury bonds extending their losses in resumed trading.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits throughout much of the session before closing all-square at £110$^{9}/_{32}$ as a total of 68,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, brokers reported a further steepening of the yield curve as the longer end of the market underperformed. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished a couple of ticks easier at £102$^{1}/_{32}$, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed £$^{3}/_{32}$ at £104$^{9}/_{16}$.

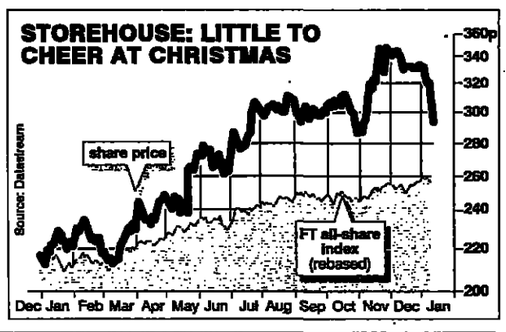
☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were firm at midday after two days of heavy losses, with bargain-hunters particularly buying heavily beaten technology issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 25.65 points to 5,058.59, with advances beating declines by four to three.



A 4p share dip for, left to right, Matthew Clark's Hugh Etheridge, Andy Nash, Peter Aikens and Peter Huntley

Unilever fell 25p to £13.17 after a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Like other brokers, Hoare is becoming increasingly worried about British companies with interests in Germany. It has cut its forecast for 1996 by £60 million to £2.5 billion and for 1997 by £40 million to £2.79 billion.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	5058.59	(+25.65)
S&P Composite	600.93	(+2.45)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	20377.92	(-234.40)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	10429.82	(+125.19)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	498.78	(-0.43)
Sydney:		
AO	2248.7	(+10.5)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	2329.51	(+8.66)
Singapore:		
Straits	2369.49	(+7.38)
Brussels:		
General	8618.31	(-87.18)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1897.85	(+12.26)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	732.30	(+4.20)
London:		
FT 30	2720.9	(+5.0)
FT 100	3654.9	(+16.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	4015.3	(+24.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1816.6	(+8.8)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1504.40	(+6.59)
FT A All-Share	1791.49	(+8.42)
FT Non Financials	1895.54	(+7.82)
FT Fixed Interest	114.08	(Same)
FT Govt Secs	95.33	(+0.04)
Bargains	29903	
SEAQ Volume	865.2m	
USM (Datastrm)	188.01	(-0.08)
US$	1.5450	(-0.0002)
German Mark	2.2212	(-0.0013)
Exchange Index	83.0	(-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£-ECU	1.1765	
£-SDR	n/a	
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Cash Conv Intl	27	...
Century Inns	116	– 1
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cox Insurance	113	...
Crown Products	53	– 2
Dmatek	73	...
Finsbury Tech (100)	106	– 1
Gearhouse Gp (200)	200	...
Jupiter Split Cap	85½	– 1½
Jupiter Split Inc	98½	– 1
Jupiter Split Units	859	...
Manx & O'seas	21	+ 1
Mountcashel	¼	...
National Grid (204)	196½	...
Northern Petroleum	75	...
Nthn Petim Wrts	8	...
Polymasc Pharms	132	– 2
Revelation Picc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3½	...
SkyePharma	7	...
Unicorn Intl (133)	143	...
Victrex	260	...
Viewinn	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ransomes n/p (48)	5½	– ½
SWP Group n/p (2½)	1½	...
Seafield Res n/p (65)	20	+ 1
SkyePharma n/p (4)	5	...
Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25)	3	...
Westbury n/p (150)	24	– 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Placer Pac	152p (+12p)
Chrysalis	404p (+31p)
Goode Durrant	281p (+16p)
Bluebird Toys	307p (+13p)
BSS Group	526p (+17p)
Bespak	345p (+11p)

FALLS:

United Biscuits	254p (-16p)
General Cable	170p (-10p)
Persimmon	199p (-10p)
Telspec	788p (-37p)
Mitel	388p (-15p)
BICC	290p (-11p)
REXAM	386p (-12p)
Enterprise	369p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Refining the oil industry

IF BP had yesterday announced it was shutting down three refineries, rather than proposing to sell two plants and close part of a third, the market would have rejoiced. Turning barrels of crude oil into gasoline, diesel and heating oil is a business that loses money worldwide and the already thin margins earned by refineries are likely to get worse as their number increases.

What the oil industry needs is fewer refineries, but one million extra barrels of capacity will come on stream this year adding to the gradual drip of barrels from debottlenecking and more efficent use of plant.

BP deserves credit for taking aggressive action to attempt to put its own operations into profit but savings of up to $150 million per year could take years to come through compared with the immediate hit of over $1 billion this year. The problem is that refineries not only cost a fortune to build but environmental regulation imposes a huge price on shutting them down. The marginal cost of running a loss-making plant is easily concealed within the accounts of an oil company when refining is lumped together with the highly profitable business of marketing oil products.

Refineries tend to absorb cash as new products and processes demand new kit, taking funds that BP would rather spend on more profitable upstream activities. BP had little choice but to reduce its output which was running well ahead of the barrels it could sell but the $1 billion sacrifice will do little to change the shaky economics of the industry. A little more disclosure by companies of the cost of their refineries might do more.

Sears

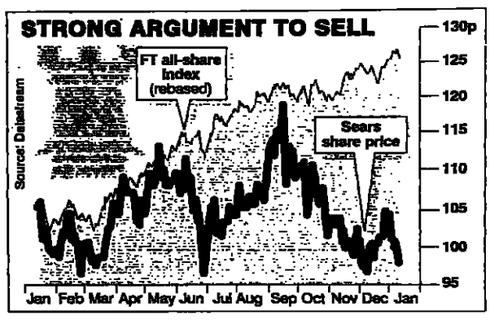
LIAM STRONG is adamant that the clearing out at Sears has ended, but City institutions want more. Long criticised by the City for its botchpotch of businesses, Sears until recently encompassed women's wear, shoes, sportswear, mail order and Selfridges department store.

Sportswear has gone, as have a brace of shoe retailers, and yesterday Strong revealed that Saxone, Curtess, Millets and the Dutch shoe business are the latest to face expulsion.

The move is welcome but is considered too little and rather late. Sears is in the final year of a three-year recovery programme but profits have yet to show much improvement. Analysts have again trimmed their forecasts — to about £105 million, excluding yesterday's £65 million restructuring charge.

Sears needs cash to invest in its businesses and the move to out-source a range of services such as accounting will free up about £23 million of funds. Withdrawal from the latest batch of businesses will free further funds but the benefits are not expected until 2000.

The hope remains that Strong will further dismantle his sprawling empire with a sale of the women's wear brands or the mail order business. Shareholders' patience is beginning to wear thin and unless Sears demonstrates solid gains without further asset sales, investors may seek disposals in the boardroom.



Lonrho

CONGLOMERATES are so deeply unfashionable that Lonrho's new management may feel confident that spinning off the mining business will in itself enhance shareholder value. That assumption should be knocked quickly on the head. At least two of the mining assets, Ashanti and Duiker Mining, are already quoted companies and the platinum interests have a see-through value from the Impala share price.

It is therefore reasonable to assume that Lonrho shares already take into account most of the assumed £1 billion value of a quoted "Lonrho Mining".

Moreover, that value assumes that Lonrho will float its mining interests free of any portion of the parent's £500 million of net debt. It also ignores the likelihood that a company whose principal assets are mining shares will be valued at a discount. However, the real conundrum is the valuation of the Lonrho rump of businesses.

Under Dieter Bock's regime, profitability has vastly improved and it is not unreasonable to assume further gains but Lonrho still generates a huge amount of profit from Africa. Currency fluctuations have in the past had a devastating impact on Lonrho's retained earnings and last year reduced the value of retained profits by £35 million. The main advantage of a demerger for shareholders should be to put a spotlight on the profits and cash generation potential of the Lonrho rump.

Matthew Clark

HAVING bought Babycham, Gaymer's cider, Warnink's (since sold) and Taunton Cider in the past year, Matthew Clark is unlikely to be filling its glass again soon. With gearing of 50 per cent the company needs to rebuild resources by generating cash from the assets.

Clark may pick up the odd wholesaler but we have probably seen the last of the drinks takeovers which have propelled the company to No 1 in UK cider with a market share of 48 per cent against Bulmer's 45 per cent.

Matthew Clark is right to focus on wholesaling. Cider sales are sparkling — albeit threatened by a duty increase on higher-strength brews — but the company's wholesaling interests suffered an 11 per cent fall in operating profits. A reorganisation is in progress in conjunction with the integration of Gaymer and Taunton but also because of the need to restore profitability.

A successful wholesale business will cushion the company from heavy exposure to the fads of drinkers. While cider is undoubtedly flavour of the month, who is to say it won't follow bitter downwards and into a quiet corner of the pub?

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	893-892	May	1010-1009
May	917-916	Jul	unq
Jul	937-936	Sep	---
Sep	955-954	Dec	---
Dec	975-974		
Mar	998-996	Volume: 10282	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1859-1850	Sep	1560-1556
Mar	1745-1740	Nov	1550-1540
May	1628-1625	Jan	1545-1520
Jul	1574-1573	Volume: 4333	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	302 4-0x.2
Spot: 300.5		Dec	300.0-00.7
Mar	366.0-65.4	Mar	298.8-97.8
May	347.9-46.7	May	299.3-98.3
Aug	333.9-32.7	Volume: 3904	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 10

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	102.87	115.42	118.76
(+/-)	-0.38	-3.05	-1.71
Eng/Wales	102.87	116.23	117.91
(+/-)	-0.60	-3.48	-1.27
(%)	+0.0	-4.0	+4.0
Scotland	unq	113.13	123.38
(+/-)	---	-1.90	-2.71
(%)	---	-4.0	-16.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.30	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.15	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.60	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	19.20	-0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.75	-0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 177 (n/c)	O: 179 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	171 (-4)	174 (-3)
Non EEC 1H Jan	172 (-1)	175 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Feb	169 (-4)	175 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	108 (-1)	110 (n/c)
Naphtha	176 (+1)	178 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	164.25-64.50	May	153.50-53.75
Mar	159.50-59.75	Jun	151.25-51.50
Apr	155.50-55.75	Vol: 56633	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	18.06-18.07	May	16.83-16.85
Mar	17.52-17.53	Jun	16.60-16.65
Apr	17.13-17.14	Vol: 69822	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	121.70	Jan	114.90
Mar	123.50	Mar	115.65
May	125.40	May	117.35
Jul	127.50	Sep	108.00
Sep	113.25	Nov	110.00
Volume: 191		Volume: 17	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	203.0
Apr	215.0	216.5
May	unq	243.5
	Volume: 80	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS CIF p/k)

Feb 106.25-106.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1545	1535	1525
Feb 96	1508	1500	1505
Mar 96	1510	1510	1499
Apr 96	1500	1490	1494
Vol: 489 lots		Open Interest: 3682	
		Index 1565 -5	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Reuters Wolff

	Cash: 2608.0-2612.0	3mth: 2540.0-2542.0	Vol: 1999775
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	688.00-689.00	689.50-690.00	248475
Lead ($/tonne)	1020.5-1021.0	1041.5-1042.5	344800
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	6360.0-6365.0	6375.0-6380.0	23740
Tin ($/tonne)	16270.0-16290.0	16270.0-16280.0	1760225
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	7625.0-7630.0	7725.0-7730.0	608856
Nickel ($/tonne)			

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allied Dom	900	39	52	59½	0	5½	12
(*5.38½)	550	2	20	28½	17½	36	34
Argyll	330	7½	22	27	2	11½	19
(*339)	360	0	9	13½	25	29	36½
AsDA	110	3½	8½	11½	1½	5½	8
(*112	120	0½	4	7	8	11½	13½
Boots	550	41½	59½	63½	0	6½	14½
(*591)	600	3	22½	32	11	26½	35
Br Airways	460	28½	42½	53½	0	6½	14
(*488)	500	1½	18½	30	13	33	32
BP	900	30½	32	42	1	10½	15
(*519½)	550	0	8½	17	30½	38½	41½
Br Steel	160	4½	12½	15	1	6½	11
(*166)	180	0	4	6	16	18½	24
C & W	460	6	28	37	6	20	28½
(*460)	500	0	12½	20	40	45	52
CU	600	17	36	44	2½	25	30½
(*614)	650	0½	13	22	36	57½	61½
ICI	800	12	33	47½	9½	32½	40½
(*807½)	850	0	13	26	42½	66	71
Kingfishr	500	23½	40½	46½	1	14	23
(*522½)	550	0½	14½	23	28	42½	50½
Land Sec	600	31½	45	53½	0½	5	10
(*630½)	650	1	15	23½	19½	26	41
M & S	420	8½	23	29½	2	10	17
(*426½)	460	0	6½	12	33½	35	40½
Nat West	600	36	46	58	0½	1½	25
(*638)	650	3	18½	33	16½	42½	41
Salnsbury	390	9	23	29	1½	10	17½
(*396½)	420	0	9	15	23½	27	34½
Shell	800	46½	59	64½	0	10½	14
(*845½)	850	4½	24	34	8½	31	36
Smkl Bch	650	43	57	71½	0	9	16½
(*692½)	700	4½	27	42	11½	29	37
Sainsbse	300	5	16	23	3½	11½	16½
(*300)	330	0	5	10½	29½	31	34½
Trafalgar	30	1½	5½	7½	1½	5	6½
(*30	35	0	3½	6	5	8	9½
Unilever	1300	21	51	63	3½	31	40½
(*1316½)	1350	1½	25	38	34	59½	66
Zeneca	1200	30	65½	92	3½	38	52
(*1253)	1250	4½	40½	66	28	65	77½

	Calls Series	Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	35	46½	55	4	8	13
(*449)	460	10	28½	32	19	34½	30
Ladbroke	140	16	19½	24½	3½	6½	11½
(*151½)	160	6	11	16	13	20	22½
Utd Bisc	240	18½	23½	29½	3½	9½	13
(*253)	260	7½	13½	19½	12	20½	23½

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	18	33½	40	1	8	14½
(*477)	500	0½	12½	19	23½	28	34
Thames W	500	34½	49	56½	0	6	18
(*536)	550	1½	19½	27½	17	26½	43
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	20	29	38	13½	29	38
(*552.5)	600	4	12	20	48½	63½	70½
BTR	330	12	16	23	4½	13	16
(*339)	360	1½	5	11	25	33½	39½
Br Aero	800	52	70	92	9½	24½	34
(*836)	850	22½	43½	65½	30½	47½	57½
Br Telcm	330	26½	36	43	1	4	9
(*358)	360	8	17	24	30	14½	22
Cadbury	500	41½	49	59½	5	16	21
(*534½)	550	11	23	34	24½	40½	45½
Guinness	460	29	36½	43½	3	13½	17
(*482½)	500	6½	15½	23½	21	33½	37½
Lonrho	180	15½	22	25½	4	7	9
(*192½)	200	5	12½	16	14	17	19
Sears	90	11½	13	14	1	2½	3
(*99½)	100	4½	6½	8	4½	6½	7½
Tsco	280	9	15½	21	6½	15½	18½
(*293½)	300	3	10	15½	27½	30½	37
Hanson	191	14½	—	—	2	—	—
(*203½)	211	2½	—	—	12	—	—
Prudential	420	21	37	49½	10	21	28
(*428)	460	5½	11	21	33½	46½	52
Reditand	360	20½	30	34½	5½	16	19
(*372½)	390	6	15	20	21	33	36
R-Royce	180	15	19	23	2	6½	8½
(*192)	200	4	9	13	11	16½	18½
Tesco	300	9	15½	21	6½	15½	18½
(*300)	330	1	5	10	30½	35½	38
Vodafone	300	19	25½	30½	2	6	9½
(*314½)	320	7½	14½	20	10	14½	18½
Williams	330	10	17½	20	6½	15	17
(*331½)	360	1	5½	9	28½	36	37½

FT-SE INDEX (*3681½)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Jan	105½	63	27½	9	2½	1
Feb	129½	92½	61	36½	19	10
Mar	150½	115½	85	61	40½	25½
Apr	159½	124	99½	77	55	39
Jun	—	162½	—	108	—	66
Puts						
Jan	3½	10½	26½	60½	108	158
Feb	17½	30½	50½	77½	113	158
Mar	36	52	71	97½	128	160
Apr	56½	75	95½	122	150½	185½
Jun	—	100	—	143	—	222½

January 11, 1996 Tot: 49123 Call: 24230
Put: 24893 FT-SE Call: 6049 Put: 8534
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3676.0	3689.0	3662.0	3667.0	16091
Previous open interest: 63711	Jun 96	3682.0	3682.0	3682.0	3669.0	3
FT-SE 250	Mar 96	4040.0	4040.0	4040.0	4030.0	50
Previous open interest: 3312	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.67	93.71	93.67	93.69	11284
Previous open interest: 344256	Jun 96	93.79	93.87	93.79	93.85	23882
	Sep 96	93.75	93.86	93.74	93.82	19212
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.63	0
Previous open interest 0		N/A				
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.48	96.51	96.48	96.50	19252
Previous open interest: 986792	Jun 96	96.65	96.71	96.65	96.69	22284
Long Gilt	Mar 96	110-03	110-22	109-29	110-09	68589
Previous open interest: 131786	Jun 96	110-00	110-00	110-00	109-22	126
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.75	119.78	119.58	119.62	2620
	Jun 96	118.30	118.30	118.16	118.19	153
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	99.85	100.20	99.76	100.03	159638
Previous open interest: 218466	Jun 96	99.10	99.46	99.10	99.34	808
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.11	95.14	95.11	95.11	1071
Previous open interest: 18802	Jun 96	95.28	95.32	95.28	95.31	415
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.35	98.39	98.32	98.34	8066
Previous open interest: 48041	Jun 96	98.42	98.47	98.40	98.42	4562
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	109.52	110.34	109.35	109.80	51372
Previous open interest: 60271	Jun 96	109.50	109.60	109.50	109.41	162

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6% Low 6% Week (fixed: 6%
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⁹/₃₂; 3 mth 6%. Sell: 2 mth 6⁷/₃₂; 3 mth: 6⅝.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6¼	6¼-6⅜	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅝-6¾	6⅝-6¾	6⅝-6¾	6⅝-6¾	6⅝-6¾
Interbank:	6⅝-6¾	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝
Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6¼.					
Local Authority Dep:	6⅛	n/a	6¼	6⅜	6⅜
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.53	n/a	5.45	5.36	5.25
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5¼	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3⅜	3⅜-3⅝	3⅜-3⅝	3⅜-3⅝	4½-3¼
French Franc:	4⅛-4⅜	4¼-4½	4⅜-4⅝	4⅝-4⅞	5-4
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1¾	1⅝-1¾	1¾-1⅞	1¾-1⅞	2-1
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $399.50-399.80 Close: $398.50-399.00 High: $399.85-400.35
Low: $398.30-398.80 AM: $399.40 PM: $399.00

Krugerrand: $398.00-400.00 (£257.50-259.50)

Platinum: $417.50 (£270.30) Silver: $5.52 (£3.575) Palladium: $129.00 (£83.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4792-2.4915	2.4882-2.4915	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	45.50-45.77	45.66-45.77	13-10pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.5580-8.6080	8.5860-8.6080	1¾-1¼pr	4¾-3¾pr
Dublin	0.9655-0.9691	0.9655-0.9680	10-7pr	26-21pr
Frankfurt	2.2133-2.2237	2.2206-2.2237	¾-½pr	1¾-1½pr
Lisbon	229.47-231.05	230.42-231.05	26-34ds	92-136ds
Madrid	186.22-187.08	186.79-187.08	39-49ds	113-130ds
Milan	2418.8-2431.2	2427.5-2431.2	7-9ds	22-24ds
Montreal	2.1055-2.1112	2.1055-2.1085	0.18-0.10pr	0.33-0.22pr
New York	1.5426-1.5446	1.5434-1.5444	0.13-0.11pr	0.36-0.33pr
Oslo	9.7470-9.7860	9.7710-9.7860	1¼pr	3¼-2¾pr
Paris	7.5870-7.6360	7.6220-7.6360	1½-1pr	3½-2¾pr
Stockholm	10.142-10.180	10.142-10.165	¼-¼ds	¼-¼ds
Tokyo	161.15-161.89	161.62-161.89	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Vienna	15.563-15.651	15.624-15.651	¼-¼pr	1¼-¼pr
Zurich	1.7853-1.7937	1.7909-1.7937	¼-¼pr	2¼-2pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr, Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3381-1.3390
Austria	10.10-10.11
Belgium (Com)	29.54-29.56
Canada	1.3648-1.3653
Denmark	5.5587-5.5607
France	4.9310-4.9320
Germany	1.4365-1.4375
Hong Kong	7.7325-7.7335
Ireland	1.5955-1.5975
Italy	1569.75-1571.25
Japan	104.63-104.73
Malaysia	2.5557-2.5567
Netherlands	1.6089-1.6094
Norway	6.3218-6.3283
Portugal	149.18-149.28
Singapore	1.4218-1.4228
Spain	120.83-120.91
Sweden	6.5710-6.5777
Switzerland	1.1581-1.1588

OTHER CURRENCIES

Argentina peso	1.5435-1.5461
Australia dollar	2.0656-2.0683
Bahrain dinar	0.5760-0.5880
Brazil real	1.5003-1.5044
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6940-0.7040
Finland markka	6.6550-6.7710
Greece drachma	358.25-365.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.9351-11.9444
India rupee	54.73-55.69
Indonesia rupiah	3505.00-3573.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4570-0.4670
Malaysia ringgit	3.9447-3.9488
New Zealand dollar	2.3436-2.3476
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Pressure to compete wins over yet another convert to banking status

Mutual attraction wears off for the Woolwich

The Woolwich's decision to abandon 150 years of mutuality came after much soul-searching and widespread leaking of its plans. Conversion to banking status, the Woolwich argued, is the only way it could hope to retain its position as Britain's fifth biggest mortgage lender, expand its business and compete head-on with rival *bancassurers*.

With the Alliance & Leicester poised to announce similar plans, the Woolwich's move effectively signals the end for big, national mutuals. Mutuality, said Peter Robinson, new chief executive of the Woolwich, has a place for a building society that has a strong regional bias, and that sticks to its core business.

He said the Woolwich needs to "escape from the constraints of prescriptive legislation," needs greater flexibility in funding operations, "particularly in gaining wider access to capital, with which to fuel increased business development, including acquisitions; and more definite clarity in the relationship between customers purchasing, for example, fee-earning services such as current accounts and unit trusts, and those investing and borrowing members who actually own the business".

The Woolwich flotation, valuing the society at an estimated £3 billion, is likely to mean a rough average of £1,000 for each of its 3.5 million qualifying members.

Given the trend for large societies to convert to bank status and seek a stock market listing, Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, estimated that nearly one in three of the population are poised to benefit from a payout and, if mergers and acquisitions continue at the present rate, one in two will benefit.

Before the Woolwich announced its plans, proposed conversions totalled £11 billion. The Woolwich takes this to £14 billion. An Alliance & Leicester float at an estimated £2.5 billion would lift the total to £16.5 billion.

Abbey National set the ball rolling in 1989 when it floated at a stock market value of £1.7 billion and qualifying members benefited from the distribution of 100 free shares worth 130p each and the opportunity to apply for additional shares at 130p. Abbey shareholders who kept their shares would now have a holding worth £632. The bank is capitalised at £8.3 billion. On the first day of trading the bank was 100 per cent owned by its 5.5 million members. Today it is 50 per cent owned by institutions, although 2 million people still hold shares.

Since Abbey National first tested the stock market water for converted building societies, and proved that it can be a successful business move, others have been keen to follow. The sweeteners to convince members to vote for conversion to plc have grown considerably since the Abbey's modest free share offer. Abbey broke the mould again last year when it launched the first hostile bid for a building society, making a stock market announcement that it had tried and failed to hold merger talks with National & Provincial. The move initially infuriated N&P, which had been close to agreeing a merger and conversion with the Nationwide. However, forced to put its owners' interests first, the society effectively put itself up for auction, attracting interest from five organisations before reaching agreement to sell itself to Abbey for £1.35 billion.

N&P's 1.34 million qualifying members are to receive at least £500 in Abbey shares. Savers of more than two years' standing will receive £750, which they can receive in cash, and an extra payment depending on the size of their savings account.

Such consolidation in the industry is a factor in the sudden urgency for societies such as the Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester to convert to bank status. Lloyds Bank said it planned to start a "mortgage war" with the £1.8 billion takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which was completed last August. This saw nearly one million C&G members receive bonus payments averaging £2,500. The top payout, however, was a generous £14,044.

The Halifax merged with the Leeds Building Society, also in August. The new giant plans a stock market flotation this year, which is likely to value the firm at £10 billion. Qualifying members will receive between £800 and £1,000 in shares, with cash payments to those under the age of 18 and with less than £100 in their accounts.

The Alliance & Leicester, which also owns Girobank, is considering a range of options. These include a takeover or merger followed by a stock market listing or a straightforward flotation such as that proposed by the Woolwich. A flotation announcement is believed to be scheduled for next month.

The Nationwide, which will be the biggest building society when the Halifax converts, said yesterday that it had no plans to convert. The society appears to have decided to batten down the hatches after its failed attempt to merge with N&P.

Brian Davis, its chief executive, said: "We have absolutely no plans to do anything other than stay as a building society." He said the society can achieve everything it wants to as a mutual society.

As the UK's eighth biggest retail financial services firm, Nationwide, is committed to mutuality until it has fully resolved the problems it faced after a difficult merger with Anglia. It is seen as a takeover target for a firm such as BAT, the tobacco and financial services group, which is known to wish to expand. For those building societies that have little chance of converting to plc status, unless one of the bigger players tables a takeover bid, mergers with each other are the only practical way forward. An early indication of how these might work was announced at the beginning of the month when the £700 million Stroud & Swindon said that it was to take over the £100 million City & Metropolitan. The move will trigger bonus payments of up to £2,500 for thousands of C&M members.

At the time of the announcement, Richard Payne, chief executive of the S&S which is ranked twenty-fifth in the building society league, told *The Times*: "We are not a predator and this is not a hostile action. It is very much an old-fashioned agreed merger between two building societies who believe in the long-term future of mutuality."

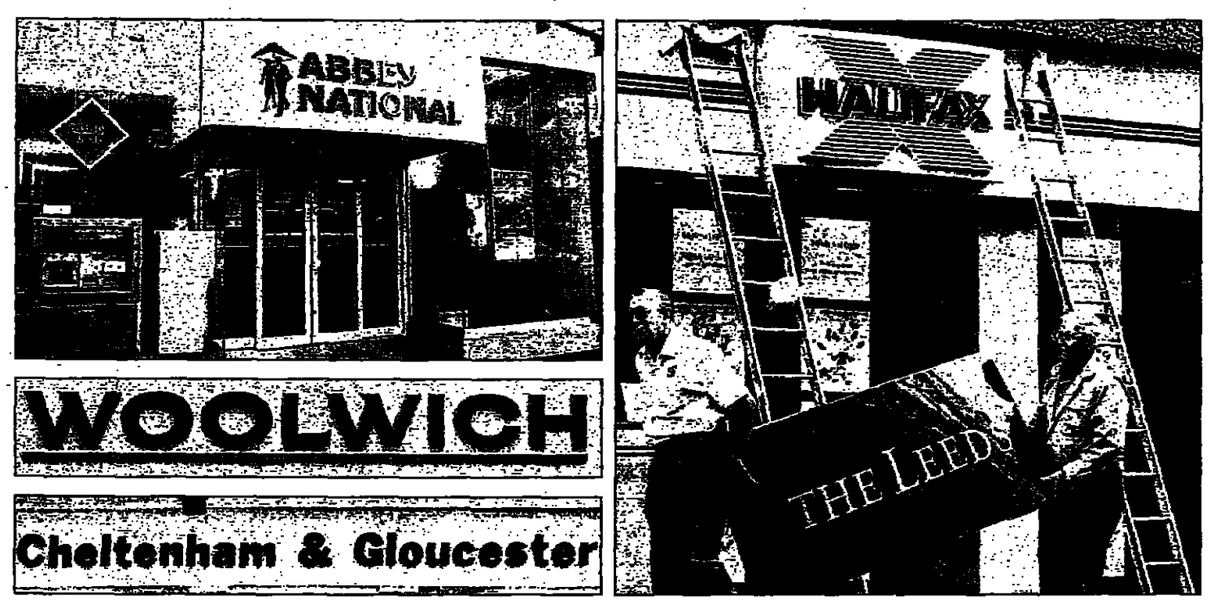
Ken Culley, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said of the Woolwich move: "Following recent intense speculation, this announcement comes as no surprise. However, this decision is one that the Woolwich Building Society has taken for itself alone. There will still be more than 70 building societies and they will continue to play an important part in the financial system. As recent mortgage rate cuts and analysis of the maturing Tessas show, building societies consistently offer very competitive products to their members and are popular with the public. There is every reason for the building society sector to continue to thrive."

Whichever firms remain mutual, change is being forced on the industry, and not only by the departure of its biggest societies. After completing a two-year review of building societies last year the Treasury granted the mutuals a number of significant concessions, such as being able to raise money more easily on the capital markets. But ministers indicated that in return they wanted boards of directors to be more accountable to their members and to consider sharing profits in the good years by paying a form of dividend or offering higher savings or lower mortgage rates.

The medium-sized societies are divided in their response to the conversion mania going on around them. Bradford & Bingley has said it is committed to independence and mutuality. Britannia is tipped as showing interest in the stock market. Bristol & West, which is trying to divest itself of Hamptons estate agency, is seen as a takeover target.

Despite protestations by smaller societies like Bradford & Bingley, it is worth bearing in mind that Jon Foulds, chairman of the Halifax, was still espousing the virtues of mutuality only months before it announced its plans to merge with the Leeds and float on the stock market.

PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROBERT MILLER



Whichever firms remain mutual, change is being forced on the industry, and not only by the departure of the biggest societies

Time to close the competitiveness gap

Corporate Britain is locked into a system that rewards short-term rises in dividend and deters the long-term drive for capital growth, says Richard Caborn in a call for public policy to be used to help more companies to become world class



Corporate Britain is failing to compete effectively enough or extensively enough, and unless we begin to address the structural and cultural weaknesses that constrain business growth, the situation will worsen.

The all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, which spent nearly 18 months examining almost every aspect of manufacturing competitiveness, gave warning that the "opportunity to bridge the competitiveness gap will be temporary, given the rise of the newly industrialised countries, and action therefore needs to begin urgently".

The Government's Competitiveness White Paper acknowledges that British industry is losing out in the race for market share, and draws attention to the "long tail" of poor to mediocre companies finding it harder and harder to compete.

On virtually every independent measure of national competitiveness, the UK's ranking has fallen dramatically over the past 17 years.

According to the World Economic Forum, the UK has slipped towards the bottom end of the international prosperity league table, only two places above Chile. A similar survey by the OECD placed Britain eighteenth out of 24.

Britain's trade balance continues to widen, our share of world trade is falling in relative terms, and our investment record remains embarrassingly poor by international standards.

Such a lacklustre performance should be ringing alarm bells in every government department.

The Treasury, which has consistently overshadowed the Department of Trade and Industry on competitiveness issues, claims that corporate Britain is "broadly on the right track as things are", and points complacently to the growth of inward investment as a symbol of success.

The level of inward investment has slowed dramatically since the late 1980s, and is now only a third of what British companies invest abroad. Foreign investment is helping to revitalise our manufacturing base, but we also desperately need to increase investment by British-based firms.

The Government also continues to trumpet the growth of the small firms sector. Unfortunately, the number of small firms has fallen year on year since 1989 and there has been little evidence of small firms growing into clusters of expanding export-led medium-sized companies akin to the German *Mittlestand*.

The scarcity of medium-sized companies, which currently account for just 0.4 per cent of enterprises in the UK, has left many of our largest companies increasingly reliant on overseas suppliers.

With a few exceptions, growth among the larger firms has also been disappointing, especially in manufacturing. The corporate philosophy of "more from less" has raised productivity levels and boosted profits, but this has not translated into investment in new capacity.

The core problem seems to be that the availability of income dedicated for investment continues to be squeezed by the relentless shareholder pressure for higher and higher dividend growth.

Industrialists complain that they are unable to look for "more from more" because the financial markets are obsessed with maximising shareholder value, and are immune from the long-term destabilising effects.

Corporate Britain seems to have locked itself into a financial system that rewards short-term dividend growth and deters longer-term capital investment, especially in the more intangible areas, such as skills training, R&D and innovation, which are critical to improved competitiveness.

The problem is exacerbated by the preoccupation with short-term accounting measures, the spread of performance-related pay based on short-term profits, and the Government's lax takeover and merger regulations.

The big pension funds, which manage more than £400 billion of investments (one third of all personal wealth in UK), are especially open to criticism.

The select committee concluded that, in spite of the long-term nature of the liabilities of pension funds, "they regard short-term dividends as a more important part of the return on equity investment than long-term capital growth".

Employees, who are the ultimate beneficiaries, often find themselves employed by companies that under-invest, and that blame the problem on the need to meet the short-term profit expectation of the pension funds to which they are contributing.

Government has a key role to play in removing the barriers to long-term investment and modifying the attitudes of large institutional investors.

Labour is considering changes in the law to extend the rights of pension beneficiaries and trustees over their investment managers, alongside proposals to reward long-term share ownership, reforms to competition policy and takeover regulations, and plans for new regional investment schemes under the auspices of regional development agencies.

The party's corporate tax review team is also examining the various fiscal options available to encourage financial institutions to place less emphasis on high dividend growth, and other measures to enable a cultural shift.

Governments worldwide are exploring similar measures to boost investment for future prosperity.

The Clinton Administration, for example, is working with the US Competitiveness Council on standards for measuring human resource investment, and on a radical reform programme to promote investment partnerships between institutional shareholders, company managers and staff.

In Australia, the focus of the eighth Social Accord has been on channelling the country's burgeoning superannuation funds into capturing private investment for public benefit, with Keating's own competitiveness council warning of the dangers of copying the British model of competing on the basis of a weak currency and low wage costs.

Labour has no intention of imposing wholesale change on the financial system, but, where the interests of the City conflict with the long-term health of the UK economy, they need to be balanced by government.

Part of the competitiveness gap is clearly down to the way Britain invests and the underlying tensions between finance and industry. However, the corporate culture born out of the Thatcherite era of boom to bust is also a significant contributory factor.

Investment houses bemoan the lack of basic financial management skills, particularly among small firms, while the banks claim that most companies rarely see long-term investment growth as a primary objective.

The big worry is that Britain has far too few indigenous world-class companies, and, without a change in corporate behaviour, we are unlikely to produce more than the handful we have. The RSA's *Tomorrow's Company* survey of 500 UK firms showed that short-termism is still very much part of the British management ethos, and that our system of corporate governance is largely to blame.

Government clearly has a vital role to play in promoting a new system of corporate governance built on long-term relationships of trust between the owners of capital, managers of industry and the workforce.

Labour is considering a number of ways forward, including supporting corporations wishing to set up two-tier boards, measures to encourage information disclosure relating to R&D, skills training and other factors of competitiveness, and possible reforms to the Companies Act.

Crucially, as Tony Blair said in his keynote speech in Singapore this week, "it is surely time to shift the emphasis in corporate ethos towards a vision of the company as a community of partnership in which each employee has a stake, and where a company's responsibilities are more clearly delineated".

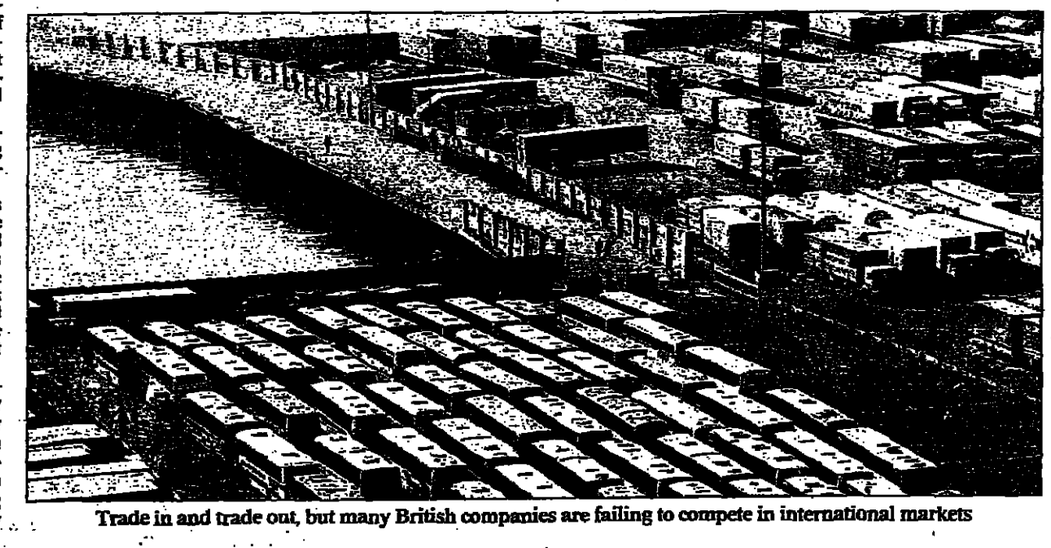
Any system of corporate governance, for example, that excludes the voice of employees, and fails to promote job security and skills training, is unlikely to gain public acceptance.

A low-wage, low-skills, hire-and-fire labour market not only makes for poor corporate governance, but seriously weakens the UK's long-term competitive position.

As the EU's Competitiveness Advisory Group said in its report last summer to the Council of Ministers, "the competitiveness game for Europe mainly revolves around a country's ability to accumulate and improve its human capital".

Labour recognises that the status quo is no longer a viable option to meeting the competitiveness challenge, and we intend to use every tool of public policy to turn Britain into a world-class economy.

☐ *Richard Caborn, MP, is shadow Minister for National Competitiveness*



Trade in and trade out, but many British companies are failing to compete in international markets

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Laura Ashley's secret shopper

LAURA ASHLEY has won a new fan and half a customer. I say "half" because Julie Ramshaw, five years at Morgan Stanley, where she is a vice-president and the retail analyst, is joining the soft furnishings and clothing group's executive committee on January 22. Julie admits she has bought Laura Ashley furnishings in her time — but not its clothes. In the past, she has also been a fervent seller of the shares. However, since new management under chief executive Ann Iverson started to improve the group's fortunes, she's turned buyer. Where Julie buys her clothes remains her secret but for her undoubted retail expertise, it's little wonder Laura Ashley approached her with a job offer.



Whatever makes you think they're with the Woolwich?"

AFTER the demise of Saxone in favour of anonymous-sounding new brand names at Sears' British Shoe, wags now predict its next format will be called Shoes-Were-Us.

Red carpet

NO GUESSES as to why the man to be introduced to the House of Lords on February 7 and who started selling rugs at the age of 15 has chosen to be known by the name, style and title of Baron Harris of Peckham, of Peckham in the London Borough of Southwark. After all, it was in the Peckham market in 1957 that he started on the magic carpet to becoming a multi-millionaire.

All aboard

FUN and games at the Woolwich photocall yesterday, and I wager the society's Strand branch is soon treated to a lick of paint. Asked to pose for photographers outside the odd-shaped building, one of the least lovely examples of the society's 500 strong chain, Peter Robinson, the chief executive, was heard to mutter that the façade was terrible. Strolling back down the Strand afterwards, photographers flippantly suggested he jump aboard a nearby number six bus. Robinson readily agreed, even though the Aldywch to Kensal Rise route goes nowhere near Woolwich.

COLIN CAMPBELL

informative:

With effect from 1 February 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate

	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.69% pa	7.49% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above agreed after 8 July 1991	7.54% pa	7.34% pa

Mortgage and Home Improvement Loan agreements will be varied accordingly.

Equity Release Loan

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.69% pa	7.49% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above	7.54% pa	7.34% pa

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

All loan amounts	9.69% pa	9.49% pa

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc Member HSBC Group

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Siemens plans more investment with orders set to top £2bn

By Philip Pangalos

SIEMENS PLC, the UK arm of Siemens AG, the German electronics and engineering group, expects British orders to exceed £2 billion this year and plans more acquisitions in the UK information technology sector to give its UK market position a significant boost.

Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens plc, is optimistic on the group's UK prospects, but said that further UK investment is needed as well as acquisitions to fulfil its ambitions and potential.

Herr Gehrels said: "The market for information systems in the UK is worth more than £10 billion [annually] ... Clearly our position is rather weak and therefore I think further acquisitions will be necessary to strengthen our position significantly."

Herr Gehrels said the total UK electronics market is worth £50 billion a year, making it the sixth largest in the world. He said it is expected to continue growing at about 6 per cent in 1996, the same as 1995. "As in previous years, we mean to grow faster than this," Herr Gehrels added.

In 1995 Siemens plc saw flat turnover of £1.29 billion, though there is an increase of about 20 per cent if distortions in the previous year are stripped out. Post-tax profits amounted to about 2 per cent of turnover.

Orders received grew £200 million, or 6.4 per cent, breaking the £1.5 billion mark for the first time. Past investment, especially in research and development, helped exports to rise 29.8 per cent to £268 million. R&D spend grew 8 per cent to £133 million. Employee numbers rose 2.7 per cent to 10,224.

Herr Gehrels said Siemens is happy with its investment in GPT, the UK's largest telecoms manufacturer in which it has a 40 per cent stake. "Our acquisition of Plessey, and the subsequent stake in GPT, gave us a good position in the UK telecoms market. Siemens is very happy with its investment in GPT. It's a top performer; there are no plans to change the arrangement."

Last autumn, Siemens acquired a 75 per cent stake in Mercury Communications' private voice communications unit. It also expanded its participation in the rail maintenance market.

Herr Gehrels said the privatisation of British Rail and the Private Finance Initiative will create significant investment opportunities. On speculation that Siemens may be interested in Mercury, Herr Gehrels told *The Times* that the group had no intention of bidding for the company.

However, Siemens may build further factories in the UK. Herr Gehrels said: "There may be an opportunity to build a UK factory to manufacture engine management systems for Rover." He said a decision on a site will be made this year.

Persimmon aims to buy Trafalgar's Ideal Homes

By Sarah Cunningham

PERSIMMON is in talks with debt-laden Trafalgar House about buying its Ideal Homes subsidiary and expects to announce a deal by the end of this month.

However, Beazer Homes said it was "surprised and disappointed" at this news. It said it had also made an offer which had been ignored.

"It should at least be talking rather than doing an exclusive deal," a spokesman added. Beazer said it remains an interested buyer. Trafalgar House and Persimmon will both have to put their proposed deal to shareholders.

Trafalgar House said it was not at liberty to consider other offers at this point and added that it had been aware of the terms being proposed by Beazer when the board decided in favour of the Persimmon deal. It said that Beazer would have to make a formal and much better offer if it wanted it to be put to Trafalgar House's shareholders.

Trafalgar House, which recently unveiled £321 million losses, is expected to receive a little more than Ideal Homes' asset value of £150 million from Persimmon. It was Trafalgar House's largest single profit-maker last year, bringing in a £19 million operating profit.

The shipping, engineering and construction group wants to wipe out its £229 million debts, and is also trying — so far without success — to sell its US housebuilding operations, valued at about £90 million.

Hambros, Persimmon's merchant bank, said yesterday agreement with Trafalgar House on price and terms should be reached by the end of January. Persimmon has exclusive rights on Ideal Homes while it carries out the usual pre-purchase investigations. Trafalgar House may be able to put the deal before its shareholders at its annual meeting on February 22.

Persimmon would finance the purchase with a combination of debt and equity, raised through a rights issue. Persimmon shares fell after yesterday's announcement of talks, dipping 11p to 198p in reaction to the likelihood of dilution. Analysts said the deal was potentially good for Persimmon. Caspar Trenchard, of Smith New Court, the broker, said: "At £160 million, done with around two-thirds debt and one-third equity, it would be attractive."

Persimmon, which last September announced first-half pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, down 10 per cent from the previous year, said Ideal Homes would be "an excellent commercial fit".

Pennington, page 23

SmithKline reorganises healthcare

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the UK drugs group, is to combine its healthcare services units into a single division.

The division — Healthcare Services — is to be run by Tadataka Yamada, currently chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Centre.

Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, said: "Competition in the healthcare industry is fiercer than ever, and controlling healthcare costs is a major challenge." He said the move would help the group in meeting customer requirements and building a stronger foundation for global expansion.



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Lord Harris, left, Ian Sneyd, centre, finance director, and John Kitching, sales director

Carpetright profits up 26%

By Sarah Bagnall

CARPETRIGHT, the carpet retailer, saw its shares jump 15p to a high of 439p after Lord Harris of Peckham, the group's newly ennobled chairman and chief executive, unveiled a better than expected rise in interim profits.

Pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent, to £10.1 million, in the 26 weeks to October 28 on sales ahead 30 per cent, to £83.9 million. Lord Harris said: "Turnover increased during a very difficult trading period affected by a weak carpet market and the exceptionally long hot summer."

He said second-half trading was above expectations and that he was confident about future profitability.

Carpetright, which was floated on the stock market at 148p a share in 1993, has opened 40 stores since the start of the year, lifting the total to 221. Lord Harris said the launch of Premier Carpets, the new concession format, had been successful and that he hoped to open a further 15 by April 30, making 35. "We are currently aiming to build a chain of 120 outlets," he said.

The group plans to build Carpet Depot, its new superstore format, into a 20-strong chain within a year. The group's cash reserve stood at £24.1 million. The interim dividend, due on February 23, rises 41 per cent, to 5.5p, payable out of earnings of 8.7p a share, up 28 per cent.

UB takes price cut in US disposal

By Martin Barrow

UNITED BISCUITS, the British maker of savoury snacks and biscuits, has been forced to accept a reduced price for its American frozen food interests.

The company disclosed yesterday that it has completed the sale of the frozen foods business of Keebler to Windsor Foods for just $70 million in cash. This represents an 18 per cent discount to the agreed price of $86 million when the sale was first announced last November.

John Warren, finance director of United Biscuits, said that the sale proceeds "remain satisfactory in the light of recent trading trends, the alternative sale options for the business and UB's decision to withdraw from its US operations as a whole".

Shares in United Biscuits fell 4p, to 266p, yesterday.

Completion of the much larger disposal of Keebler's US cookie and cracker business, raising $500 million, appears to be taking longer than expected. The company now expects to complete the sale to Inflo Holdings later this month, when remaining contractual conditions have been satisfied, against original expectations of a sale by the end of last month. Inflo is a joint venture between America's Flowers Industries and Artal Luxembourg.

In addition, discussions with a number of interested parties relating to the sale of elements of the Salty Snacks business of Keebler, which also got under way in November, are continuing. The sale is expected to raise a further $86 million.

The proposed sale of the Keebler businesses and UB's exit from America were announced in July, when shareholders were warned of a sharp fall in first-profits and a cut in the interim dividend. Morgan Stanley, the merchant bank, was retained to evaluate options for partnerships or disposals of components of the business.

UB is due to report year-end results in March, when the final dividend, maintained at 9.8p a share last time, is expected to be cut.

Business Roundup

McDonnell shares rise on Geac stake

SHARES in McDonnell Information Systems Group, the beleaguered computer services company, received an unexpected boost yesterday when it emerged that Geac Computer Corporation, of America, has acquired a 3.79 per cent interest. The shares, which have fallen sharply after successive gloomy trading statements, rose by 9p, to 59p, with more than one million shares traded. Geac holds 3.79 million shares, worth £2.2 million at yesterday's closing price.

Geac, which some years ago acquired the Canadian business of McDonnell Douglas, made an unsuccessful offer for MDIS's loss-making library division, which has since been sold. MDIS said that there had been no talks between the two companies in respect of Geac's shareholding. MDIS shares were floated on the London stock market in 1994, at 260p each.

Denmans lifts payout

DENMANS ELECTRICAL, the distributor of electrical products, reported record profits and a three-for-one bonus share issue as it prepared to move up from the Unlisted Securities Market to a full listing. In the year to September 30, profits rose to £3.02 million before tax, from £2.8 million, on sales of £50.6 million (£46.7 million). Earnings were 44.78p a share (41p). The majority of the Denman family's interests will be transferred to a newly established private company that will own 57.5 per cent of the equity. The total dividend is up 50 per cent to 10.2p a share, with a final 8p due on February 23.

Shandwick refinanced

SHANDWICK, the public relations company, has refinanced 50 per cent of its borrowings to complete its long-term funding arrangements. It has placed $40 million of unsecured loan notes with US institutions at a fixed rate of 7.76 per cent for eight years, taking advantage of low US interest rates. At the same time, Lloyds, Midland and Fuji are to provide facilities of a further £27 million in a mix of currencies. The unsecured arrangements replace £50 million secured facilities provided by Lloyds, Midland, Barclays, National Westminster and Fuji. The capital restructuring began in 1994 with a rights issue.

Coral Products rises

CORAL PRODUCTS, the manufacturer of plastic moulded products that obtained a stock market listing last year, has declared a maiden interim dividend of 0.75p a share. In the half year to October 31, the company increased pre-tax profits to £773,000, from £579,000, giving earnings of 3.38p a share, up from 3.25p. The shares rose 3p to 68p yesterday, against a flotation price of 60p last April. Turnover increased to £4.66 million, from £2.66 million. Sir David Rowe-Ham, the chairman of Coral, said that sales continued to rise in the UK and on the Continent.

Apta holds dividend

APTA HEALTHCARE, the nursing homes operator, is holding the interim dividend at 0.4p a share. In the half year to October 31, pre-tax profits rose to £817,000, from £121,000, with turnover increasing to £5.74 million, from £1.04 million. Earnings were 0.7p (0.4p) a share. Apta has 836 beds in operation after the refurbishment of Tennyson House in Nottingham, which is due to reopen at the end of this month. It also announced yesterday the acquisition of a speciality rehabilitation unit in Nottingham for £466,000 and the sale and leaseback of a nursing home in Lincoln for £1.3 million.

THE TIMES

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Sales of new cars in EU advance

THE number of new cars put on to European Union roads last year was 0.5 per cent higher than in 1994, the Association of European Car Manufacturers reported yesterday.

Total new car registrations in the 15 EU countries amounted to 11.64 million. The figure for December was 7.7 per cent fewer than the figure for December 1994.

New car registrations rose 3.6 per cent in Germany, 2 per cent in Italy and 1.8 per cent in Britain. There was a decline of 2.1 per cent in France, where the figures for December alone showed a decline of 18.6 per cent.

Sales by PSA, the French maker, fell 5.8 per cent; by Renault, 5.4 per cent; by Mercedes, 5.4 per cent; by BMW, 2 per cent, and by Ford, 0.5 per cent. Sales of cars made by Japanese companies fell 1.6 per cent, although Mitsubishi raised sales 7.5 per cent. South Korean firms increased sales by 68.3 per cent to take 1.5 per cent of the market.

Rush for gold in Australia

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

GOLD fever swept Australia yesterday, with investors scrambling for gold stocks as the metal's price broke through the critical US$400 level.

A surge in demand for shares in producers pushed the Australian gold index up 5 per cent to 2131, pulling an otherwise sluggish stock market up 10.5 points to 2248.7. Gold reached US$401.75 in London in the previous session, before closing at US$398.75. Yesterday, it closed at US$399.25.

Keith Goode, a gold analyst with Bell Securities in Sydney, said: "It was feeding frenzy stuff. It just went crazy from lunchtime onwards. The $400 level is a very important psychological level and is suddenly causing people to think, 'Wow, here we go'. People are talking about chart breakouts, they're having a field day. We've seen some really spectacular moves today, some serious rises."

Analysts said the price surge would lead to still more activity in an already lively gold-mining industry. One said: "There is already a huge amount of activity in the Australian gold industry at the moment in terms of exploration and mines coming on-stream, and this will encourage it even more. In the last week of December alone, four mines were started."

Among the biggest gainers, Plutonic added 57 cents to A$7.45, an 8.3 per cent rise. Great Central Mines added 26 cents to A$3.10, up 9.2 per cent, and Placer gained 20 cents to A$3.16 cents, up 6.8 per cent.

Mr Goode said the buying came from local investors and overseas. Another analyst said: "One can point to the fundamentals to explain the rise in the gold price, for example the move to gold for safety in the face of the weakness in the Dow Jones, but in reality it was the magical 400 number that pushed it up."

Winners keep GGT ahead

By Christine Buckley

ACCOUNT wins from CompuServe, Mastercard and a chocolate selection helped to cushion GGT Group, the advertising and marketing group, from patchy spending and a generally slow recovery in the UK.

The group's gains in Britain included Turtlewax, John Smiths Bitter, Cadbury Dairy Milk and UK Gold, while Stena Sealink and the Post Office Counters business left. In the US, gains such as CompuServe followed the departure of Dollar Rent-a-Car.

The company, which has been installing new management in Europe and reducing some business in the US, increased sales 8.5 per cent, to £156 million, and raised pre-tax profits for the half year to October 31 by 9.6 per cent, to £2.9 million.

Michael Greenlees, chairman, said: "The marketplace for advertising and marketing services is an extremely competitive and demanding environment and we have continued to take steps to ensure that we are equipped to beat the best in our business."

GGT scaled down its operation in Atlanta, but it has strengthened its presence in Paris by merging a new agency with its present one. The enlarged French division made a small loss.

The interim dividend, payable on April 10, rises by 5 per cent, to 2.1p.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A YEAR'S FREE HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP




Enjoy a free day at a health club

AN INTRODUCTION to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And today *The Times* invites readers to spend a free day at one of the 73 health clubs throughout the UK who are participating in this offer (a full list was published on Monday and yesterday).

Exercise not only helps to keep your body young and supple, it is also good for the heart, lungs and circulation — and it makes you feel good. So this is a great chance to start shaping a new you.

As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

By taking up our offer of a free day at a participating health club, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club of your choice. A total of £80,000 worth of free memberships is available.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE FITNESS DAY

Collect four of the six tokens appearing daily until tomorrow and attach them to one of the vouchers published yesterday and on Monday. Book your free day by telephone first, quoting *The Times* offer. The voucher, which must be presented to the club when you visit, is valid for one visit to one club. This offer is valid until February 29, 1996.

THE TIMES
FREE HEALTH CLUB VISIT
TOKEN 5

Equities extend their losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3085	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3082	+3	4.2	11.3
956	613	Abbey Nat	930	-5	3.8	12.5
1268	930	Allied Irish	1268	-1	4.0	10.5
313	196	Ass Nbrs 2	313	-1	5.2	..
4653	3537½	Bank Amerca	4653	-87½	..	..
2087½	1815	Bank Scotland	2087	-8½	2.7	13.7
2127½	1577½	Barclays	2127½	-19½	3.8	10.2
1495	1295	Bk of Ireland	1495	-3	4.0	10.4
1005	816	Cyprs Alian	1005	-3	8.4	7.4
4159½	2450	Citicorp	4081½	-59½	..	..
3481½	2161½	Close Bros	3354	-7	3.2	14.9
1762½	1239½	Commercial	1755½	-6½	3.4	..
1355	1000	Dn Ind Ksh Y	1282½	-9½	0.4	..
3291½	2775	Deposits Bk	3089½	-31½	2.4	..
1911½	1469½	Edwrds Susp	1852½	-19½	2.2	8.9
1611	1139½	First Scot Y	1458½	-3	3.4	..
2488	1965	Gilmrd Hd	2488	-1	2.1	14.9
1000	756	Hambros	1000	-4	4.5	11.0
1699	1278	HSBC Hl	1699	+19½	3.5	12.8
813	558	Irish Perm	813	..	2.8	9.6
1153	853	Kleinwort Bn	1153	-1	3.5	14.9
1377	1027	Lloyds TSB	1377	-4	4.4	11.9
3080	2160	Oldmeds Bank	2980	-80	2.7	3.4
1387	44	Rea Brothers	1387	-1	1.9	28.8
1478	1095	Rbs Trst Bnk	1395	-1	3.7	12.4
1180	829	Schroders NV	1085	-1	1.8	15.5
1111	911	Schroders & Frnd	1111	-1	4.4	11.9
825	245	Smith & Shert	825	+14	2.0	34.4
1310	70	Ulster	86	+1	1.2	..
2145½	3843½	Wells Fargo	2131½	-38½	2.3	..
3087½	211	Westpac	2983	+1	4.8	..
296	200	Whitbrd	296	..	5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

778	143	Assd Brtsh	777	-7	4.6	8.8
1387	887	Bass	1378	..	4.6	10.5
1373	1038	Boddington	1370	..	2.4	24.5
1286	137	Brkhead Sngf	1274	..	1.9	18.8
1286	137	Bdldge P 'A'l	1274	..	2.9	19.8
1286	335	Fstr Cn 'A'l	1274	+4	2.5	16.5
1286	402	Greenalls Gp	1286	+4	2.9	..
1286	488	Grnde King	1286	-2	2.9	15.1
1286	1000	Hardy Hanin	1286	..	4.1	..
1286	150	Hawkins	1286	..	4.1	10.9
3435	3046	Hall J	3113	..	2.2	16.7
2347	316	Marstland	2347	..	2.1	16.1
2356	2086	Mrstn Thrpt	2356	+2	2.8	13.2
578	391½	Morland	578	+2	2.8	15.2
6	6	Paramount	6	..	4.2	10.0
2128	387	Regnal Inns	2088	..	1.5	27.3
2486½	2087½	SA Brewerie	2486	-26	2.5	15.7
940	462	Scot & Newc	937	+3	3.6	18.4
1937	230	Scot & Nwc PP	1937	..	..	..
2121	173	Tom Cookngh	2124	-2	1.5	36.4
2388	211	Vaux Group	2371	-2	4.7	14.0
1762	521	Wolverhmptn	1762	..	3.8	10.7
1097	483	Wolfrhmptn Dr	1097	+1	3.8	..
318	186	Yates Assct	298	+1	1.3	26.5
475	425	Young 'A'	451	-1	4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

150	125	Abbey	148	..	4.7	9.8
232	143	Allied	228	..	4.5	16.1
181	54½	Amec	181	-1	4.6	18.8
275	133	Andrew Sykes	266	+1	..	..
195	137½	Ashtead	182	-1	1.7	18.0
39	30	Ashtn Gp	38	..	3.9	9.8
38	30	Bailey (Geo) Con	34	..	4.4	5.9
41½	30½	Barratt	36	..	1.1	..
262	158	Barrett Devs	247	-4	3.8	16.4
385	232	Bovis Homes	371	-4	4.3	12.5
87	62	Bridgwtr	87	..	4.6	10.0
37	25	Britannia	37	..	1.5	31.1
513	315	Bmsley Gpt	504	-17	2.5	15.1
185	160	Bstt Brost	167	..	4.8	8.0
245	175	Bstt (Henry)	178	..	5.1	8.0
271	201	Brndon Hdgs	267	..	2.8	11.2
40	17	Brkmns Gp	38	-2	8.7	4.5
160	28	Br Bldg & Eng	41	..	..	..
134	93	Bryant	104½	-4½	8.9	9.5
212	152	CALA	208	..	4.8	9.5
38	34½	Campbell & Arm	38	-4	..	12.7
84	34	Clarke T	74	..	12.1	15.1
242½	67	Costain	74	..	..	..
110	53	Countrywide	102	..	3.8	8.0
81	40	Cred Nicholson	77	..	4.4	8.0
99	70	Crosby	78	..	5.1	6.6
288	165	Dnt Group	280	..	5.7	10.7
29	13	Dalkeith	17	..	7.4	34.5
863	733	Gleeson (MJ)	795	..	3.8	14.0
98	69½	Green (Eng)	90	..	10.6	28.1
274	178	Hanlock Exps	271½	-½	2.2	12.7
158	115	Hnsdn-Shaw	131	-2	2.7	13.9
83	73	Higgs & Hill	84	..	3.7	71.4
22	14	Howard Hdgs	15	..	6.7	17.5
29½	24	Jarvis	29½	..	..	..
148	99	Kelton	148	..	3.5	15.2
283	185	Laing (J)	280	-4	4.3	32.2
107	82	Laing 5.4% Cv Pf	105	..	7.8	..
212	178	Laing (N)	212	..	..	..
218	178	Meandors Ld	195	..	3.7	10.2
191	104	McAlpine (A)	145	-3	5.2	16.5
76	48	McCarthy & Sn	75	..	3.3	10.4
83	51	Morgan Sndall	83	..	1.3	..
214	116	Morrison Cons	214	..	4.7	10.0
105	82	Nthrn Ldg (J)	105	..	3.7	30.4
215	182	Persimmon	197	-10	8.0	13.8
114½	76½	Pochin	108	..	1.8	13.2
135	94	Prowting	107	-1	4.4	14.3
53	13	Ranr Ind	53	..	3.8	..
53	45	Secure Retire	51	..	2.5	9.5
142½	93	Redrow	139	..	3.8	12.3
398	348	Sheriff Hdgst	398	..	2.7	11.7
112½	71	Sherca	74	..	6.8	11.3
388	258	Simpsn	388	..	2.8	22.3
178	142	Tay Homes	149	-1	5.9	10.7
136	99	Taylor Woodrw	135	..	2.4	22.1
568	415	Tilbury Dougl	448	..	5.2	15.3
59½	28	Tmr Hm	38	-1	5.4	12.8
38	7	Townscreen	18	..	..	4.5
38	7½	Ty Group	18	..	4.8	18.2
109	71	Wimpey	88	-1	6.3	8.0
116	93	Wimpeyscot	109	..	5.2	10.1
89	63	Wilcon Hdgs	88	..	3.4	11.6
182	117½	Wilstrp 'A'	174	-1	4.2	12.9
5½	2½	Wiglfst	5	..	..	34.4
176	124	Wilcy (D)	172	-2	3.3	12.7
352	268	Wilcy Brwn	351	-2	5.5	13.1
146	97	Wimpey G	131	-4	5.2	18.1

BUSINESS SERVICES

2	0½	Anglo Utd	2	..	..	..
116½	57	Aqa Inds	83	-3	..	..
97	80	Bailey (C H)	97	..	..	..
3	3	Cmbd Gp	3	..	10.5	6.5
16½	4	Chrmail	16½	-½	2.8	..
181	135	Clarke	181	..	4.4	12.1
277	215	Cnsrt	274	-1	1.4	17.4
43	24	Hookhay	43	..	2.3	28.2
248	168	Hunterpit	248	..	2.8	16.5
167	137	Lagay	167	-1	2.8	11.5
578	391½	Marlamt	578	+2	2.8	15.2
6	6	Paramount	6	..	4.2	10.0
2128	387	Regnal Inns	2088	..	1.5	27.3
2486½	2087½	SA Brewerie	2486	-26	2.5	15.7
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1097	483	Wolfrhmptn Dr	1097	+1	3.8	..
318	186	Yates Assct	298	+1	1.3	26.5
475	425	Young 'A'	451	-1	4.4	17.5

CHEMICALS

198	146	Allmpt & Mls	167	-7	4.5	17.6
137	109	Albrt Colloids	126	-7	2.6	18.2
245	196	Amcor Intl	220	..	3.6	13.6
73	47	Amtrsdm Ind	68	..	2.5	18.0
1152½	1120½	BASF Ord	1134½	+16½	3.3	..
852½	688	BOC	1147	-7	4.7	17.5
305	239	BTP	305	+4½	3.3	16.6
1809½	1141½	Bayer DM50	1809½	+45½	..	..
155	103	Bngmn	146	-2	4.6	28.8
119	87	Brnt Chmcls	87	..	4.6	13.5
228	200	Br Vit	214	+1	4.6	13.5
238	184	Cornwg (M)	211	-1	4.6	16.7
489½	352	Cormnds Ld	443	+4	4.5	15.1
359½	318	Croda	348	-4	4.6	15.1
199	165	Dyson (J&J)	199	..	3.8	16.3
98	70	Elmtn 'A'	98	..	3.1	6.9
99½	56½	Ethnic Blends	99½	..	..	..
315	238	Fisons	284	-3	4.8	12.6
133	73	Flnn	133	..	..	..
93	66	Gibbs & Dandy	93	..	4.4	..
206	160	Gosmo Grp	177	..	3.3	17.7
394	312	Halstead (J)	394	..	2.7	17.3
335	254	Hepworth	335	-1	6.1	14.1
468	368	Hickson	468	..	4.1	8.3
288	262	Hoyland Wm	262	-2	7.1	12.5
188	84	Johnson	84	-3	3.6	68.6
1394	1105	Marley	1325½	+5½	4.6	10.6
1888	1313	Mayne Nat	1335	-3	4.6	14.2
178	113	Norman Tnks	135	-3	6.5	11.7
188	71	Norcros	188	-1	4.4	11.5
97	12	Phoenix Timber	97	+1	3.6	16.7
207	152	Pilkington	207	+1	3.3	15.3
191	122	Polypipe	191	+3	2.7	13.9
1119	845	RMC Gp	1107	+3	3.7	13.9
18	3	Rahtar	18	..	..	..
548	382	Rank	548	+5	5.5	11.5
98	68	Rentokil	98	..	3.5	9.6
178½	138	Rmbrd (J)	178½	..	4.5	11.2
115	85	Rmbrd Rfrctrs	115	..	4.5	13.5
362	286	Rugby Group	362	..	3.5	12.2
9½	4	SNFA	9½	..	..	..
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	180	..	3.9	12.6
19	16	Spring Ram	19	+½	..	..
169	97	Tarmac	169	+1	3.6	15.7
285	265	Tours Packers	284	-3	3.2	14.8
28	24	Tudor	28	..	3.1	17.8
38	33	Watchhouse	38	..	..	..
475	324	Wellstdrn	441	-5	2.5	14.8

DISTRIBUTORS

107½	69½	Abt Lea	92	..	5.9	9.4
585	459	Adam & Harvey	585	..	3.8	9.7
21	13	Alexandrs	18	..	3.5	26.3
113	89	Applegrn	101	..	7.4	16.9
4½	3½	Asd Br Eng	4	..	..	..
603	505	BBA Group	526	+17	4.7	15.1
33	31	Bond	31	..	..	..
34½	15½	Bonser Prevnt	16	..	5.0	11.4
22	18	Bopel 'A'l	18	..	3.4	9.3
408	345	Bssnss	408	..	4.8	16.4
21	16½	Bdlgtn Gp	16	..	4.4	13.2
2½	2	Cadbury	2	..	..	..
278	215	Caldrd	247	..	2.8	13.4
34	24	Chrtr One	27	..	2.5	13.4
20	15	Chrtrhall	20	..	3.7	13.5
184	144	Bernard Mtrt	184	..	2.5	13.4

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01865 259 783				
Gilebond Amer	193.00	204.20	- 4.50	0.31
Gilebond Eqtcy	270.20	287.40	- 1.90	2.05
Gilebond Euro	248.50	263.40	- 0.70	1.21
Gilebond Inst Bd	126.30	130.90		0.81
Gilebond Gilt	76.95	79.33	- 0.08	4.84
Gilebond Japan	180.30	190.70	- 0.20	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	521.20	550.90	- 4.40	2.00
General Inc	533.70	567.60	- 3.80	2.00
UK Growth Acc	419.30	445.10	- 2.80	2.85
UK Growth Inc	379.20	397.20	- 1.90	2.80
Higher Inc Acc	770.70	819.30	- 5.30	4.17
Higher Inc Inc	429.80	456.20	- 2.90	4.17
Gilt&Fxd Int Acc	207.40	213.10	+ 0.10	5.47
Gilt&Fxd Int Inc	95.36	100.70		5.47
Nth America	371.40	342.80	- 7.20	
Europe	325.70	349.70	+ 1.40	0.70
Bal Assts	84.05	89.42	- 0.59	2.92
Bal Fedtrds Acc	112.60	119.80	- 0.60	4.70
Bal Fedtrds Inc	78.85	83.89	- 0.33	4.70
Global Opps	99.78	101.90	- 0.60	0.79
Balanced Acc	87.80	94.90	- 0.29	2.80
Balanced Inc	58.98	62.11	- 0.27	2.80
Japan Acc	47.83	50.94	- 0.44	
Pac Basin Acc	399.00	424.50	+ 3.30	0.95
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 777 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	132.23	140.30	-	7.13
High Inc Equity	175.30	187.50	- 0.70	4.49
Worldwide Bond	234.20	311.90	+ 1.20	4.49
Americas Growth	275.40	347.90	- 3.30	0.37
Asian Pacific	330.70	353.70	+ 2.60	0.14
Assets & Earnings	255.50	274.40	- 1.50	2.81
Extra Capital Acc	164.20	175.40	- 0.30	0.59
Extra Inc	44.45	47.30	- 0.15	8.50
General	264.20	281.10	- 2.10	2.98
Global Opps	64.61	69.23	- 0.25	0.46
Japan	127.80	136.70	- 0.40	
Managed Inc	47.58	50.62	- 0.15	4.59
Mastertrend	156.90	167.70	- 0.50	1.48
UK Emerging Cos	75.50	80.70	- 0.30	
Bonus	75.63	80.46	- 0.66	2.45
International	130.00	138.90	- 0.70	0.67
Dividend & Growth	65.72	69.30	- 0.07	3.67
Global Gwth & Inc	71.19	76.05	- 0.07	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1995.00	2074.00	+ 9.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 388				
Aims Inc & Growth	53.65	55.72	- 0.06	0.56
Cash	50.27	50.29	+ 0.01	5.81
Emerging Mkts	67.30	71.56	- 0.56	0.05
European	129.60	134.80	- 0.10	
Exempt	1011.90	1063.00	- 5.70	1.72
Extra Income #	47.99	51.56	- 0.19	9.59
Far East Emrg Econ	124.20	130.50	- 1.30	0.48
Fixed Interest #	23.98	24.94	- 0.01	9.45
Fixed Int Tst	160.90	168.90	- 7.10	9.21
Japan	183.40	197.00	- 0.60	
Latin American	51.63	54.23	- 0.35	0.91
Pacific	83.48	87.65	+ 0.29	0.30
Property Shares	63.27	66.42	- 0.15	2.64
Sth Emerging Cos	68.59	72.02	- 0.23	1.70
UK Growth	49.07	51.99	- 0.26	3.47
Abn World Port #	78.40	79.92	- 0.37	2.05
Ethical	73.40	76.30	- 0.37	2.31
Aberdeen Cst Inc #	50.92	50.92		7.37

For REDCH see Market.com

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ARBUTHNOT UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01273 695 000				
Capital	75.91	79.97	- 0.59	1.92
Balanced	66.32	69.88	- 0.36	4.07
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	174.81	185.92	- 1.61	4.71
Fixed & Convertible	41.08	43.70†	- 0.04	6.74
Monthly Inc Pfic	49.96	53.15	- 0.04	6.43
Preference Share	46.91	49.90†	+ 0.01	7.61
Balanced Funds:				
High Yield	131.21	139.59†	- 0.97	5.82
Managed Fund	73.79	78.71	- 0.21	2.99
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	43.68	46.68	- 0.25	1.74
<ds> Account	51.08	54.84	- 0.29	1.74
UK & General	65.46	94.11	- 0.51	2.72
<ds> Account	113.53	120.78	- 0.65	2.72
UK Growth	167.99	178.71	- 0.95	2.76
International Growth Funds:				
Europe Growth	203.69	216.69	- 0.68	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	137.02	145.77	+ 0.70	
Global Bond	85.43	90.82	+ 0.23	5.82
Japan Growth	112.56	127.19	- 0.88	
North Amer Gth	206.70	219.89	+ 4.67	
Ortmost Growth	83.40	88.72	+ 0.89	0.06
Worldwide Growth	71.97	76.56	- 0.62	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.69	92.69	+ 0.01	5.96
Homeowner Fund	88.74	93.87	- 0.61	1.61
Qualtex Fund	145.81	155.12	- 0.78	1.96
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	33.59	35.99	- 0.37	3.31
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	169.60	180.60	- 0.60	1.70
Income	71.56	76.13	- 0.08	5.65
European	68.07	72.42	+ 0.08	0.66
Recovery	169.99	180.70	- 0.60	2.12
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	913.80	923.00†		3.51
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	94.57	100.60	- 0.60	1.48
Income #	269.20	286.30	- 1.70	4.18
<ds> Accum #	660.30	734.30	- 4.40	4.18
Smaller Cos	200.60	213.60†	- 0.70	0.97
<ds> Accum	249.30	264.10†	- 0.90	0.97
Inv Portfolio	92.34	98.23	- 0.56	1.52
High Inc Port #	78.00	82.97	- 0.49	4.30
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1590.00	1649.40†	+36.90	
Japan Small Cos	1256.00	1291.50†	+44.70	
UK Small Cos	1827.20	2007.70†	+ 7.00	
US Small Cos	1925.10	1966.10	- 42.20	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Dscs Inc	225.70	237.60		2.96
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	306.70	323.00	- 0.40	0.65
New Asia	232.00	246.40	+ 1.80	0.23
Japan Growth	114.40	122.00	- 1.30	
Jap Smlr Co	466.50	496.00	- 0.20	
Nth Amer	351.10	371.40	- 1.90	0.79
Un Inc & Gth	234.30	250.50	- 1.60	2.83
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 566				
UK Balanced Inc	155.70	165.10†	- 1.00	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	165.90	175.90	- 1.20	4.10
<ds> Accum	218.70	232.50	- 1.50	4.10
UK Prof & Fl Inc	59.57	63.20†	- 0.09	4.96
Emerging Opps	93.30	99.14	- 0.64	0.45
UK Smlr Cos #	61.35	63.26	- 0.47	0.61
Extra Income Inc	46.98	52.69	- 0.03	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 089 526				
American	154.73	164.19	- 2.10	0.41
Convertibles #	237.50	252.86†	+ 0.67	6.12
Equity Income #	178.20	189.60†	+ 0.05	6.68
Far Eastern	54.34	57.81	+ 0.45	0.31
Financial	50.23	53.48	- 0.27	1.40
Growth & Inc #	266.30	283.50†	- 0.20	4.73
High Grd #	169.10	179.90	- 0.20	4.73
International	425.30	452.70†	+ 1.00	0.11
Inc Cap Inc	101.90	108.50	- 0.30	3.36
Latin American	34.37	36.58	- 0.09	
Pacific	44.87	47.77	+ 1.04	
Prof Mngd Inc	73.79	78.57	- 0.20	7.14
Tiptop	44.87	47.77	+ 1.04	
UK Smaller Cos	204.00	217.00	- 1.10	0.11
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
EM Director Ords				
Growth Acc				
Income				
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 6267				
Endurance Fd				
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 499				
Balanced				
Emerging Mkts				
Financial Tst				
Far Eastern				
High Income				
Int'l Growth				
North American				
Pension				
Smaller Cos				
Special Sits				
Tst of Inv Trs				
EVERGREEN FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc				
Smaller Cos Acc				
Recovery				
Recovery Acc				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth				
Equity Inv Tst				
High Income #				
Managed				
Pension				
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01277 200 797				
Family Assur Tst				
Family Income Tst				
Family Trust				
Unified Growth				
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Callers, Private Clients: 0800 414 181				
Cash Fund				
Gilt Fund				
Bond Funds:				
Gilt & Fixed Int				
Inc Bond				
Managed Funds:				
Income Funds:				
High Income				
Income Inc				
Income Acc				
Special Sits				
UK & Overseas				
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #				
Inc Plan #				
Cap Plan				
General Opps				
Growth Inc				
Private Portfolio				
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 4454 Dlg 01277 291 010				
Euro Smlr Cos	136.60	146.50	- 0.40	0.54
Emrg Asian	96.80	101.30	- 0.26	1.89

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 280 5500 Dealing 0345 775911				
American Growth	67.88	72.37	- 1.10	
<ds> Accum	67.88	72.37	- 1.10	
Amer Smlr Cos	585.80	627.60	- 15.30	
<ds> Accum	599.50	641.20	- 15.50	
Capital Tst	343.60	365.50	- 1.00	1.40
<ds> Accum	499.00	530.30	- 1.20	1.40
Cont Smlr Cos	58.29	62.01	- 0.26	0.55
<ds> Accum	61.51	65.44	- 0.26	0.83
Convertible	132.60	141.10†	- 0.10	5.47
<ds> Accum	261.70	299.20†	- 0.20	5.41
Emerging Markets	66.58	71.03†	+ 0.13	
<ds> Accum	66.73	71.39	+ 0.13	
European	130.10	137.70	- 0.10	0.18
<ds> Accum	135.90	144.90	- 0.10	0.18
Extra Income	364.60	388.10	- 1.60	3.81
<ds> Accum	560.20	596.00	- 2.80	3.81
Financial	145.60	159.10	- 1.50	0.41
<ds> Accum	158.40	168.50	- 1.50	0.41
Gilt Trust	65.01	67.02		5.95
<ds> Accum	95.73	98.69	- 0.01	5.95
Hearn Fund Inc	208.90	246.70	- 3.20	
<ds> Accum	220.50	246.70	- 3.20	
Income & Growth	211.50	225.00†	- 1.40	3.21
<ds> Accum	330.60	351.70†	- 2.30	3.21
Intl Growth	398.50	425.40	- 3.60	
<ds> Accum	442.50	472.30	- 4.00	
Japan & Gen	165.10	198.90	- 1.10	
<ds> Accum	167.00	198.90	- 1.10	
Monthly Inc #	178.50	188.60†	- 1.20	3.58
Managed Port Inc	113.40	119.40	- 0.70	2.01
<ds> Accum	121.90	128.30	- 0.80	2.01
Quarterly Income #	54.49	57.37	- 0.18	4.62
<ds> Accum #	60.41	64.72†	- 0.21	4.62
Recovery	354.10	378.70	- 2.10	
<ds> Accum	417.80	447.00	- 2.60	
UK Growth	62.27	64.12	- 0.42	2.48
<ds> Accum	63.67	67.95	- 0.44	2.48
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 681369 Enq 01705 681340				
FP American	53.50	56.30	- 0.34	0.57
FP Am Smlr Cos	172.70	184.70	- 1.80	
FP Asian Growth	378.80	398.10†		
FP Australasian	378.50	406.10	+ 2.70	
FP Eqnty Dist	118.00	124.20	+ 0.60	2.67
FP Euro Gth	906.50	954.30	- 5.70	2.67
FP Euro Opp	256.70	269.70	- 0.80	0.14
FP Euro Smlr Cos	272.60	286.90	- 0.90	0.14
FP Intl Bond	82.32	86.65	- 0.26	6.79
FP Intl Gth Dist	36.13	38.55	- 0.24	0.44
FP Jap Gth	52.74	56.28	- 0.35	0.44
FP Pac Basin Acc	2020.00	2235.10	+ 0.80	
FP UK Gth	355.40	374.10	- 2.30	5.14
<ds> Accum	1699.30	1791.90	- 1.10	5.02
FP Jap Smlr Cos	313.70	334.60		
FP Monthly Dist	73.58	78.53†	- 0.37	5.22
FP Stg Deposit	100.10	100.10†		6
FP Tokyo	84.93	90.59	- 0.60	
FP UK Focus	39.25	42.24		2.61
FP UK Growth	185.80	197.30†	- 1.20	2.67
<ds> Accum	287.70	305.50†	- 1.80	2.67
Stewardship Dist	378.50	402.60	- 2.90	1.82
<ds> Accum	427.20	501.20	- 3.50	1.82
Shariaba Inc Dist	76.82	81.51	- 0.33	4.65
<ds> Accum	102.00	108.30	- 0.44	4.65
N Am Shtng Dist	118.20	125.40	- 0.90	0.98
<ds> Accum	121.40	129.10	- 1.60	0.98
FP Mid Inc UK Sm Co				
FP Income 1				
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gth Acc	119.80	127.40	- 0.70	1.12
Opps Cap Gth Acc	123.20	131.00†	- 0.90	0.06
Cap Gth Inc Acc	114.80	122.10†	- 0.70	2.43
Opp Cap Gth Inc	118.60	126.30	- 0.80	2.43
Opp Cp Gth Inc Ac	117.80	125.30	- 0.50	3.35
Opp Cp Gth Inc Ac	122.30	130.10	- 0.60	3.35
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 1067				
GAINDA	265.10	280.40	- 1.60	2.20
Gilt	49.89	50.44	+ 0.01	5.38
Growth Portfolio	94.92	100.40	- 0.54	3.21
Income Portfolio	68.19	72.11	- 0.32	4.27
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	212.90	227.70	- 0.60	2.00
Dividend	94.00	100.50	- 0.60	4.75
Int Gth & Inc	231.50	247.60†	- 0.80	3.17
UK & Gen	48.04	51.38	- 0.39	1.99
Fund of Funds	70.71	75.63	- 0.40	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sit	226.30	244.10		
Europrime	369.90	395.10	+ 1.30	0.29
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	92.60	95.99	- 0.03	4.86
<ds> Accnt	97.76	60.84	- 0.03	4.86
Far East & Gen	273.80	292.90†	+ 3.60	
Germany	1271.00	1357.00	- 7.00	
High Yield #	50.24	53.08	- 0.02	8.01
<ds> Accnt #	52.77	55.75	- 0.03	8.01
Income Inc	171.80	182.60	- 0.50	4.29
<ds> Accnt	183.60	195.20	- 0.60	4.29
International	368.70	395.70	+ 1.30	
Intl Income	92.40†	97.45†	- 0.40	3.96
Japan & General	452.40	481.80†	+ 2.30	
Korean Securities	63.17	67.57	+ 0.24	
Orient Acc	151.80	162.40	+ 1.50	0.21
Smlr Cos Gn Inc	44.94	48.06†	- 0.12	4.42
<ds> Accnt	50.58	54.10	- 0.11	4.42
UK Capital Inc	178.60	192.10	- 2.10	1.49
UK Gth&Inc Acc	316.60	338.80	- 3.70	1.49
Ufs Smlr Cos	93.34	99.83	- 0.47	1.20
US & General	172.30	182.70	- 2.40	
Worldw Spec Sits	156.40	167.10	- 0.70	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	56.43	60.25	- 0.28	1.84
Cash Trust	141.88	141.89†	+ 0.01	5.57
Practical Inv Inc #	130.43	138.80	- 0.93	2.62
<ds> Accnt #	262.62	302.37	- 2.19	2.62
UK Index	167.15	167.98	- 1.13	3.21
UK Smaller Cos	147.32	157.56	- 2.18	0.74
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.75	25.85	- 0.02	7.49
High Income	34.04	36.40	- 0.17	5.16
UK Equity Income	149.76	159.17	- 0.81	3.06
Global Bond	91.00	92.13†	+ 0.02	5.01
International Funds:				
Emerging Markets	44.96	48.09	- 0.05	
Global Managed	144.13	153.33	- 1.06	1.57
Gold & Intl Res	120.93	129.34	+ 3.79	0.67
Global Utilities	141.33	150.99†	- 0.61	1.71
Overseas Funds:				
American	170.75	181.66	- 2.37	0.25
European	121.36	129.57	- 0.25	0.93
Euro Sel Opps	180.25	191.32	- 0.39	
Asian Emerging	129.80	137.54†	+ 1.86	
Hong Kong	185.30	196.10	+ 2.70	1.94
Japan	254.21	269.58	- 2.19	
Pacific Growth	255.32	270.58	+ 1.77	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds:				
Managed Equity	237.45	237.45†	- 1.24	2.13
Long Term Bal	190.42	200.42†	- 1.17	2.10
Med Term Bal	218.34	218.34†	- 0.83	3.15
UK Equity	270.10	270.10	- 1.55	2.80
UK Emerging Cos	157.45	157.45†	- 0.47	2.10
American	263.96	263.96	- 1.36	1.21
Asian	136.96	136.96	- 0.70	
European	374.74	374.74	- 0.93	1.60
Index Linked Gil	180.49	180.49†	- 0.28	2.71
Fixed Interest	172.52	172.52	- 0.03	6.25
Hong Kong	255.10	255.10	- 1.53	
Pacific	350.28	350.28†	- 1.39	0.35
Emerging Mkts	125.38	125.38	- 0.93	0.01
Index Sml Japan	157.88	157.88	- 1.34	0.16
<ds> Pacific Exc	262.15	262.15	- 1.94	0.16
<ds> Cont Europe	175.72	175.72	- 0.41	1.92
Index Sml USA	167.99	167.99	- 2.79	1.92
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds:				
Managed Equity	111.72	118.84	- 0.63	
Mod Term Bal	102.75	110.48	+ 0.74	
Long Term Bal	110.88	124.33	- 0.56	
UK Equity	124.96	124.96†	- 0.77	
UK Emerging Cos	73.64	73.64†	- 0.24	
American	97.61	97.61	- 0.50	
Japan	65.26	69.42	- 0.39	
European	130.46	130.46	- 0.74	
Fixed Interest	97.99	97.99	- 0.04	
Index Linked Gil	73.28	73.28	- 0.11	
Deposit	99.72	99.72	- 0.01	
Stable Unit Funds:				
Stbl Bal	153.99	163.79	- 0.83	
Stbl Mod Sh Prd Inc	69.95	74.40	- 0.38	
<ds> Inc Port Inc	69.95	74.40	- 0.38	
<ds> Accm Port	69.95	74.40	- 0.38	
Stable Equity	97.79	104.00	- 0.53	
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
Gilt Sinking Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	100.51	107.00	- 0.05	7.48
<ds> Accnt	98.77	104.00	- 0.05	7.48
Emerging Mkts	104.05	110.70	- 0.76	0.19
European Inc	92.60	98.53	- 0.64	0.15
Hi Income Inc	96.50	102.70	- 0.66	5.15
<ds> Accnt	96.50	102.70	- 0.66	5.15
Sterling Fd	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Far Eastern	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
High Income	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Int Growth	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
North American	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Pension	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Smaller Cos	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Special Sits	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
UK Growth Inc	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
01277 278 278 Dealing: 01277 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
UK Small Cos	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Recap Growth	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Commercial Tst	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Japan Smlr Cos	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Greater China	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Pacific Growth	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Gen Growth	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Global Inc	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
Int Smaller Cos	97.78	104.00	- 0.67	5.15
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 222 2120				
Asset Trust	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Global High Inc	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Compound Bond	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Compound Growth	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Int PEP Trust	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Equity Inc	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
<ds> Accum	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Global Growth	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Income Trust	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Pacific	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
Recovery	109.30	116.10	- 0.60	0.73
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UK Equity				
Special Sits				
Sel of Shares				
UK Smaller Cos				
High Income Funds:				
Balanced Growth &				
<ds> Accum #				
High Income				
Extra Income #				
Fixed Int Bond				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fund Small Cos	162.14	173.64	+ 0.37	0.87
Eur Sel Sits	79.28	83.55	+ 0.43	1.26
<ds> Accum	83.96	88.52	+ 0.48	1.26
Japan Trust	235.70	251.29†	- 2.57	
Japan Special Sits	238.44	254.10	+ 0.63	
Pacific Smlr Cos	217.39	234.05	- 1.27	
North American	229.91	242.20†	- 1.92	
American Smaller	141.66	151.45		
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0161 886 4366				
British	118.97	126.22	- 0.62	1.82
Capital	143.86	152.68	- 1.03	1.20
Dollar	424.61	444.63	- 9.76	
Enterprise Gth	321.53	339.54	- 1.83	1.39
European	266.16	282.45	- 0.45	0.46
Far East	329.13	344.49	+ 2.69	
Financial	283.28	298.14	- 7.39	1.76
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.61	27.97	+ 0.01	5.57
High Yield	167.29	176.66	- 0.23	3.83
Income & Growth	154.58	162.69	- 0.97	3.07
International	203.11	208.54	- 1.61	
Japanese Selects	228.28	238.54	- 1.25	
Japan Tech	96.59	101.16	- 0.83	
Nat Resources	84.70	89.89	+ 1.90	
Portfolio	165.53	84.51	- 0.57	1.28
Special Sits	173.65†	183.81†	+ 1.16	0.79
UK Emerging Cos	186.57	198.54†	- 0.24	0.55
US Smaller Cos	217.29	127.50	- 1.29	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers: 0800 161 830 Investors: 0800 298 505				
UK Funds:				
Balanced #	169.80	177.20†	- 0.50	6.01
Capital	161.80	168.83†	- 0.50	5.20
Income #	618.25	659.90†	- 3.76	5.19
Income Fund	68.47	69.77†	- 0.48	5.42
Tstee Index	115.60	118.95†	- 0.60	2.57
UK Index	154.70	165.50†	- 1.10	3.55
International Funds:				
American Growth	562.20	597.90	- 5.20	0.47
American Smaller	254.40	262.70	- 3.00	0.34
European Growth	129.20	137.20	- 0.15	
European 100	155.70	166.60†	- 0.40	1.04
Global Bond	73.03	74.94†	+ 0.05	5.67
Japan Growth	218.00	234.00	- 1.30	
Japan Index	84.16	84.52	- 0.74	0.19
Japan Smaller Cos	33.39	35.64	- 0.07	
Far Eastern Funds:				
Asian	84.58	88.89†	+ 0.24	0.16
Hong Kong Gwth	133.10	142.50	+ 1.40	1.22
Spore & Mlysn Gth	84.36	90.63	+ 1.43	
Tiger Index	211.56	212.90	+ 0.90	0.45
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 735				
UK Specialist Stocks				
UK Equity Income	43.01	43.67	- 0.22	0.57
General Funds:				
Managed	83.45	85.63	- 0.43	1.36
Recpt Gilts& Fxd	93.34	95.58	- 0.53	5.18
Recpt Managed	86.43	88.57	- 0.45	2.17
High Income Funds:				
Uk Extra Inc	88.34	93.76	- 0.11	
Gilt & Fixed Int	91.29	96.97†		
Int Inc & Gwth	84.21	89.42†	- 0.25	3.47
UK Income	347.70	361.40	- 2.50	4.90
Overseas Growth Funds:				
American Growth	57.73	59.73	- 0.98	0.37
Asian Growth	139.77	148.46	- 2.50	
Asian Smlr Cos	134.70	143.06	- 2.40	
Continental Eur	129.31	137.34

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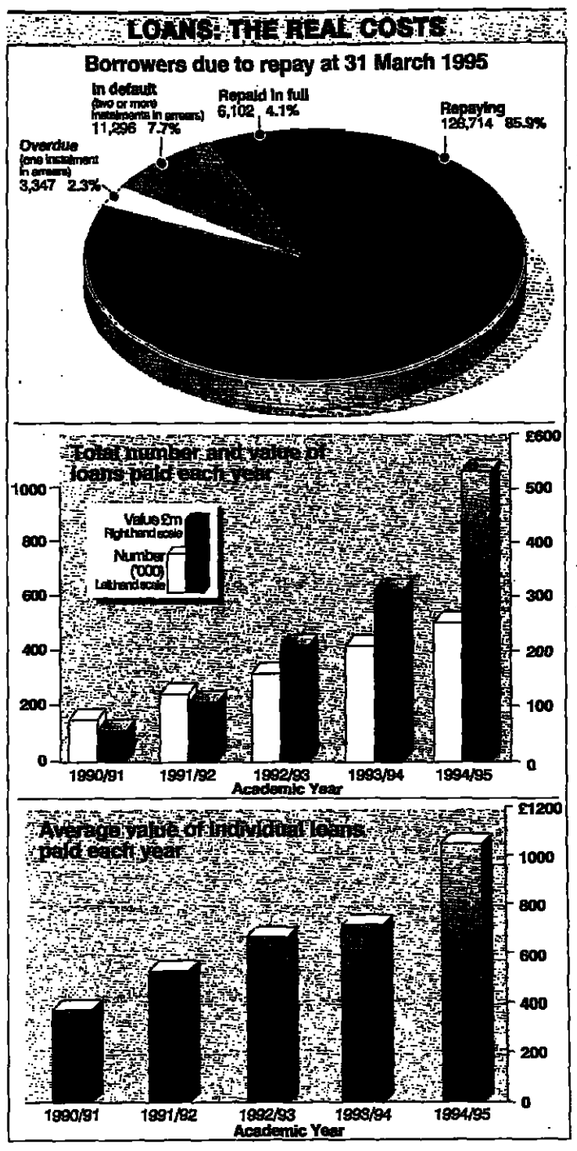
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EDUCATION

Why loans are going wrong

Students are going to have to pay more towards their education, says Eric Ash





As Bernard Shaw discovered, "a higher education is useful in that it enables you to despise the wealth it prevents you from attaining". Even so, there is wide agreement — embracing all flavours of political conviction — that maintaining the expansion of higher education which has taken place over the past two decades is vital for the future prosperity of Britain.

The problem is cost. The public provision which seemed affordable when fewer than 10 per cent of the age group participated in higher education plainly is not at the 30 per cent level we have now reached.

Until 1990, when student loans were introduced, both tuition fees and maintenance grants — for full-time students — were a charge on the Exchequer. Since the benefits of receiving a higher education flow both to society and to the individual, it seems reasonable that the costs also should be shared — that the individual graduate should make some contribution.

There has been much debate as to whether the student's contribution should be towards maintenance or towards tuition costs. It has been argued that if the latter were adopted, the universities would win a greater measure of independence from government.

I believe that hope to be illusory. As long as government bears the major costs of a higher education institution, it will be able to call the tune. If government gets it wrong — and the relentless squeeze on university finance is an all-too-clear example — there is no short cut to persuasion by political process. Universities can obtain a measure of independence only to the extent that they can earn income from non-governmental sources.

The loans which are administered by the Student Loans Company have been increased as the mandatory grant for students has been reduced. By next year, the loans will amount to half the provision. The scale of the operation is massive — loans in the current academic year will amount to £800 million.

The machinery has worked well — with one much publicised exception, when last year a scheme, designed to streamline loans for students who were already in receipt of a loan, ran into difficulties. While 93 per cent of the students received their loans in good time, the other 7 per cent suffered serious delays. That 7 per cent amounts to 35,000 students — about 60 literate and justifiably angry people per MP.

It was a very audible error. The record up to that time had been excellent and happily, in the current year, all has again worked smoothly. Nor is there any serious problem with collecting loan repayments. Presently, 93.5 per cent of repayments due have been collected. The prediction for the longer run is that this figure will rise to 97 per cent.

It has been suggested that a better way of collecting repayments might be via National Insurance or taxation. A scheme based on this option is being successfully run in Australia. However, detailed studies have shown that the differences — if any — in collection costs or default rate are too close to call.

The terms on which the loans are given are benign. They are indexed for inflation but the real interest charge is zero. Repayment starts in April in the year after graduation and is completed in five years.

The repayments can be deferred indefinitely if the borrower has an income of less than £15,200. The most onerous repayment rate, which could apply to any participant in the scheme, works out at 4 per cent of gross pay — the average being much less. It is difficult to believe that anyone could possibly regard them as a serious obstacle to embarking on higher education.

Yet all is not well with the loan scheme. The biggest problem is that it is slow to provide relief for the taxpayer. It is inevitable that in any scheme of this kind it will take some years before the repayments approach the rate of lending. So far, with the scheme in its sixth year, the annual repayments amount to only about 6 per cent of the loans.

If nothing is changed it will take until 2002 — beyond the next election but one — before the repayments in any year amount to one half of the loans made in that year. A second problem stems from the fixed repayment period. If students were in future to be asked to carry a greater portion of the maintenance costs — a development not inconceivable, irrespective of the outcome of the next election — the repayments might begin to deter.

Both problems stem from the concept of zero real interest rate. Zero interest is another word for money. It means that a part of the transaction is really a grant rather than a loan. It is a blurring of meaning which is defensible during the period of study; it has nothing going for it during the period of repayment. A commercial rate of interest would remove the need for rapid repayment of loans, which could be on an income-related formula, and it would provide relief for the taxpayer.

Even faster relief could be won if it were possible to transfer some or all of the loans to private financial institutions. A recent attempt by the Government to do that had to be postponed for lack of fervour on the part of the banks.

The scheme would have involved up to four financial institutions, the Student Loans Company and a sixth player — the holder of a database to co-ordinate the transactions. The complexity of this scheme may have militated against early implementation.

A simpler approach which adapts rather than seeks to replace the present system might yet prove persuasive to financial institutions and to a future government. Arithmetic gives the same answers irrespective of who asks the questions.

● *Sir Eric Ash was acting chief executive of the Student Loans Company throughout 1995. The above represents his personal views.*

At the very heart of Europe

David Tytler on a school where pupils see themselves as Europeans

Whisper it quietly in the company of Eurosceptics, but a new order has arrived. And it seems to work.

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The Brussels school, founded in 1958, is one of nine in eight countries, including Britain, set up by the EU to teach the sons and daughters of its officials. Their education is provided free but at considerable cost: the Brussels school alone costs about £30 million a year, although it does admit a small number of pupils who pay £1,200 a year.

The first European school was founded in Luxembourg in 1957. All take as their starting point the words of Jean Monnet which are sealed into the foundations of each school: "Educated side by side, untroubled from infancy by divisive prejudices, acquainted with all that is great and good in the different cultures, it will be borne in upon them as they mature that they belong together . . ."

At the heart of each school is the emphasis on language. Lessons are taught in all nine official EU languages — Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Many lessons are taught in the mother tongue, with Irish available for the children of Irish officials. The uniqueness of the school lies in its approach to learning a foreign language.

The study of a first foreign language — English, French or German — is compulsory from six. A second is added at 12, with an optional third language available from 14. The pupils' skill is humbling: a playground conversation can switch from language to language without hesitation.

Language classes are taught by a native speaker in mixed nationality groups and a weekly European hour in the primary school brings together children from all nations in cultural, artistic and sporting activities. It is almost a statement of the obvious when John Marshall, the English head of the school, says: "The language work they do here bears no resemblance to what they do in the UK."

Once in the secondary school, art, music and sport are all taught in mixed nationalities. From 13, history and geography are taught in the pupils' first foreign language. But as one English parent said, it is often the case of pupils learning to swim or they will sink in a school that is only now beginning to recognise the need for structured pastoral care.

The emphasis is on success, with pupils being kept down a year if they fail the school's annual exams. Mr Marshall says that the system concentrates the mind and that the sanction is rarely imposed twice. He accepts, though, that life can be difficult for pupils entering the secondary classes, not least because of the language skills of their classmates.

> Lessons are taught in all nine official EU languages

He says: "We do give extra time in special classes and parents also know they may have to give extra lessons. But they have confidence in their ability to learn and most learn very quickly. Children know they will be expected to perform. They know they get a good deal and by and large perform better than the average."

Perhaps for the Euro-sceptics in England, the most controversial aspect of the school is its approach to history, but Mr Marshall makes no apology for teaching the subject to all pupils in a foreign language. He says: "The idea is that you become more objective about your own country and outward-looking towards others.

"Pupils no longer learn national history but European history, which they are taught by people who may not share their own views, sitting alongside children whose own views may be challenged and who will challenge the views of others. They will receive a much more complete education than anybody else."

This objectivity is vital for Mr Marshall, who fears that many in Britain are being brought up in an anti-Europe atmosphere unable to make rational judgments for themselves. While insisting that it is not his job to instil values and views, Mr Marshall cannot resist expressing his own hopes: "I would not have missed this opportunity for the world. Having taught here, you really believe that Europe has a future and hope that the pupils' experience will help to spread European values."

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PITMAN PUBLISHING

Girls at a London school are enjoying the benefits of a superhighway education, reports **David Charter**

Switched on and learning

Bushra Mazhar has no doubt that getting connected to the Internet is a worthwhile investment for schools. The 15-year-old from Walthamstow School for Girls sent an e-mail to the managing director of ICL, the computer firm, after meeting him at an Internet conference, asking for work experience. He agreed.

Bushra manages the Internet link at the school which has been online for several years, and is seen as a pioneer of superhighway possibilities. The enthusiasm of the girls — they have a conferencing arrangement with other schools called Girls' Issues — shows the male-dominated image many have of the Internet is pure myth.

Bushra said: "I want the Internet to be a major part of my future life. There is a lot of sexism about computers generally but anyone can use it if they have the skills."

The usefulness of the Internet for coursework ranges from images of the growth and development of tadpoles to information in French on social trends provided by a Canadian source. Providers of the Internet to schools ensure undesirable material is blocked.

Jean Johnson, head of IT at the school, says the girls clamour to use the single computer linked to the Internet, and they communicate regularly with schools in Sweden and Finland.

She says: "It is a fantastic medium. They just become incredibly confident not just in the use of computers but in day-to-day life and their contacts with other people. It has brought the whole world of telecommunications to a level which the girls can deal with and they are having quite adult debates."

However, the National Council for Educational Technology (NCET) advises schools to avoid a commitment to the Internet if there is no staff member with a burning interest in the technology. It says that more than 2,000 schools and colleges have a connection, mostly through the main two providers, BT and RM. Roger Blamire, manager of superhighway projects at NCET, says: "It depends where the school is in its development plan and whether it has the interest of staff to take the initial thrust. There is no point in forcing it on them.

"We suggest getting someone in the school to have a watching brief, possibly by giving them a machine at home, so the enthusiasm becomes grassroots."

He added: "Despite all the hype for the Internet it is actually quite slow and does not really have much dedicated material on it for schools. It is for the tolerant and confident user at the moment."

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, this week set up a project to look into the benefits of the Internet, which will run alongside its broader investigation into superhighways, including video-conferencing.

The Government's belief in the future role of the Internet was shown by another announcement by Mr Squire that the Education Department was funding a "virtual languages" centre, bringing together material from Europe, Canada and Japan.

However, schools thinking of setting up their own link are advised to consider the financial implications, even of a single modem link, which has forced Walthamstow to limit the time girls can spend on the computer. Even although it is moving to a local telephone link, the cost of several-hour-long local calls soon adds up.

The Labour Party has pledged that every school will have access to the Internet, which may encourage some wary schools to wait before committing themselves to the information technology revolution.

One thing is certain from Walthamstow's experience — the Internet brings all sorts of benefits and changes to the classroom. Mrs Johnson says: "I think it is more than acceptable for a girl to sit down and teach a teacher how to do it and it is extremely good for their self-esteem. There will always be students who are better than staff."

The sour aftertaste of cherry-picking

How selection of pupils at 11 can have a domino effect on other schools

Parental protests and accusations of social engineering have followed the rush by schools in a corner of north London to select pupils on special ability, *David Charter writes.*

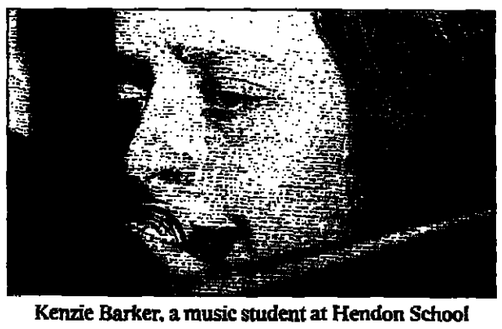
The Barnet area is two years down the road of an experiment in selection of the kind made easier this week by Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary.

Mrs Shephard proposes to scrap the ban on comprehensive schools interviewing pupils and their parents for a place. She also wants to increase the limit on the number of children admitted on a test of ability from 10 to 15 per cent.

Pupils in Barnet already face a battery of tests for the most popular schools because one school after another has moved towards greater selectivity. Change in admissions policy has been swift. Head teachers and governors were anxious not to be left behind, fearing that those which resisted would end up as sink schools for the pupils nobody else wanted.

Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School went fully selective last September, to match the single-sex grammar education offered to girls at The Henrietta Barnett School. Other schools have followed, using the freedom of grant-maintained status, despite an outcry from parents.

Dame Alice Owen School in nearby Potters Bar now selects nearly half its pupils through testing, with a further 10 per cent on musical or sporting ability. Hendon School, which takes 10 per cent of pupils on musical ability, won government approval in November to test all applicants and give a quarter of its places to bright pupils, half to those of middle ability and a quarter to low ability. The first tests take place at the weekend for 450 children competing for 200 places.



Kenzie Barker, a music student at Hendon School

Bob Lloyd, Hendon School head teacher, said: "We decided the only way to maintain a comprehensive intake was to introduce a means of testing all the pupils and to admit them in proportion to a normal distribution of ability."

He said the actions of neighbouring schools left Hendon with no choice. Mill Hill County High School, which is grant-maintained, takes 10 per cent on musical ability and has applied to take 30 per cent more on aptitude for technology.

Mr Lloyd added: "If we did not do this we would end up as a secondary modern school. Schools must realise it is no good sitting back watching others take your most able pupils."

Barnet council, fearing the brightest pupils are being siphoned off, has formed a working party of head teachers, including some from grant-maintained schools, to see if it can somehow change admissions policies to retain a full academic and social mix at the nine local authority comprehensives.

Anne Jarvis, Barnet's chairwoman of education, said: "Effective planning has been sabotaged and you end up with schools which already have a lower proportion of able pupils being put on a downward slide."

Jenny Brown, a member of a parents' protest group, said: "Parents are increasingly worried their child might not be what the school wants."

She added: "Because of these moves by Mill Hill County High, other schools in the borough have panicked and we are now facing a domino effect."

Martin Dannell, chairman of governors at Mill Hill, said: "We are doing this to remain comprehensive. There is no doubt the top end of our intake has been affected by other schools selecting."

هكذا من الأصل

Insurable interest in property

Glengate-KG Properties Ltd v Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment December 21]

The phrase "the interest of the *insured* in the property" in a material damage proviso in a consequential loss insurance policy did not cover an insurable interest which was not a personal property interest of the insured.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Sir Iain Glidewell dissenting), when, inter alia, dismissing an appeal by the first defendants, the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Phillips made on July 7, 1994 and revised on February 2, 1995.

The action had been brought by the plaintiffs, Glengate-KG Properties Ltd, against Norwich Union, the second defendants, Scottish Union and National Insurance Co, who had been dismissed by the judge from the action, and the third defendants, Lowndes Lambert UK Ltd, who were the brokers.

In March 1985 the plaintiffs purchased the former Bourne & Hollingsworth department store building in Oxford Street, London, for redevelopment into a complex of offices and retail outlets to be known as the Plaza.

The plaintiffs took out a consequential loss insurance policy with the first defendants which stipulated that if "any building or other property or any part thereof used by the insured at the premises described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of the business suffers damage other than by an excluded cause [it would] pay to the insured the amount of loss resulting from interruption of or interference with the business carried on by the insured at the premises in consequence of the damage..."

In the appendix to the policy the item insured was defined as being the anticipated rent which was stated to be £10,950,000. The maximum indemnity period was stated to be 36 months.

The insurance effected by the consequential loss policy was, however, subject to the proviso that "at the time of the happening of the damage there shall be in force ... an insurance covering the interest of the insured in the property at the premises against such damage..."

The plaintiffs wished the development to proceed with as little delay as possible. It was therefore agreed that a temporary office should be established on the first floor of the redevelopment which could be used as a team base by the architects, Archer, Boxer and Partners, as well as by the other professional advisers who were involved.

In September 1985 a serious fire broke out at the site and the vast majority of the drawings in the architects' office at the team base were destroyed, as was much of the temporary office itself. The destruction of the architects' drawings led to inevitable delay which the plaintiff asserted resulted in a substantial loss of rental income.

Following the fire it came to light that although the architects had insured their drawing boards and other equipment, the work in progress had not been insured allegedly due to an oversight by the broker instructed by the architects. The plaintiffs then made a claim against the first defendants under the consequential loss policy. The claim was disputed and the plaintiffs brought proceedings.

Mr Roger Ter Haar, QC and Mr James Holdsworth for the first defendants; Mr Charles Falconer, QC and Mr Andrew Moran for the plaintiffs; Mr Jeremy Cooke, QC and Mr Dominic Kendrick for the third defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the most difficult question in the case was whether the plaintiffs had "an interest" in the architects' drawings within the meaning of the proviso in the consequential loss policy. The judge had held that they did not.

It was argued in support of the appeal that in the context the word "interest" in the proviso meant an insurable interest and that the plaintiffs clearly had an insurable interest in the architects' drawings.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was right. In the course of the hearing the court had been referred to a number of cases which demonstrated that a person might have an "insurable interest" in property even though he was not the owner. Persons having such an insurable interest included persons having a contractual licence to use property and pledgees.

But those cases and others clearly showed that the word "interest" in the context of insurance could have more than one meaning. It could mean any "insurable interest" in the wide sense used by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena v Craufurd* ((1806) 2 B & P 269, 302).

But it could also mean an insurable interest of a more limited kind. It depended on the context. In the present case the judge came to the conclusion that as the architects' drawings were not property in which the plaintiffs had a personal interest the proviso did not apply.

Mr Anthony Colman, QC, was correct when in his judgment in *The Moonacre* ([1992] 2 Lloyd's Rep 501) he said that *Anderson v Morice* ((1875) LR 10 CP 609; (1876) 1 App Cas 713), a sale of goods case, fell into that category of case in which the assured's relation to the goods was not such as to confer on him a sufficient certainty of benefit from their preservation or to impose upon him any certain exposure to the risk of liability in respect of their loss.

But the position would be different if at the time of the loss the insured already had rights in respect of the insured goods which might be affected if the goods were lost or damaged. In the event of such loss or damage he might lose the profits from a forward sale for which a contract had already been made.

He could insure against that loss of profits if he had rights in existence at the time of the loss of the goods, and it could be said that he had an insurable interest in the goods in the wider sense explained by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena*.

But in his Lordship's view, the right to insure against the loss of profits did not mean that the buyer had an "interest in the property" in the sense contemplated by the material damage proviso.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that in the context the reference to "interest" in the proviso was a reference to an interest in the narrower sense. The plaintiffs had no such interest in the architects' drawings, even though they might have a licence to use the designs and might one day have acquired the property in the drawings.

At the time of the fire the drawings were the property of the architects and in his Lordship's judgment it was the architects' responsibility to replace them if destroyed. The plaintiffs were under no obligation to insure the architects' drawings themselves.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL, dissenting, said that it was a fundamental principle of insurance law that a person who had no personal property interest might nevertheless have an insurable interest in property. Indeed he must have such an interest to be entitled to insure the property. The definition given by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena* included but was wider than a personal property interest.

The issue for the court's decision was whether "the interest of the insured in the property" within the proviso included an interest which was not a personal property interest. In disagreement with Lord Justice Neill, his Lordship could see no reason why it should not.

The phrase in its context in a policy of insurance covered whatever interest the insured had, including an insurable interest which was not a personal interest. His Lordship did not find that the authorities cited to the court on that issue led to a contrary conclusion, or indeed were of much assistance.

The plaintiffs clearly had an interest in the architects' drawings. They therefore had an insurable interest in the drawings and could themselves have insured the drawings.

Alternatively, they could have required the architects themselves to take out such insurance, which would have satisfied the proviso. In the absence of any such insurance, however, it was his Lordship's judgment that the proviso applied and was not satisfied.

Lord Justice Auld delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Neill.

Solicitors: Greenwoods; Berwin Leighton; Cameron Markby Hewitt.

Pay now sue later clause is valid

Marchant and Eliot Underwriting Ltd v Higgins

The "pay now, sue later" clause in the standard agency agreement between a Lloyd's name and his managing agents was valid and did not breach article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Roch) so held in a reserved judgment on December 21 dismissing the appeal of Dr Andrew Higgins against the decision of Mr Justice Rix on October 24, 1995, giving summary judgment for the plaintiffs, Marchant and Eliot Underwriting Ltd, in the sum of £6,000 with costs for their claim in respect of cash calls on the defendant in respect of the 1990 and 1991 accounts.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the action was to enforce a name's obligation to make funds available to his managing agent so as to enable valid claims to be met on policies that he had underwritten. That did not involve the carrying out of an unlawful agreement or the implementation of an unlawful arrangement. The obligation to pay debts was as old as commerce.

The court did not see how competition between agents could affect trade between EU member states. Managing agents at Lloyd's were in competition with each other but not, in relation to those they represented, with agents outside Lloyd's.

Without some form of pay now, sue later obligation, Lloyd's could not function. If the defendant were to succeed it would destroy the ability of Lloyd's to provide insurance and would destroy Lloyd's itself.

Court cannot accept undertaking

In re B (a Minor) (Supervision order: Parental undertaking)

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Bennett

[Judgment December 21]

County courts had no jurisdiction to accept undertakings from the parent of a child who was the subject of an application for a supervision order made under section 31 of the Children Act 1989.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the guardian ad litem and a local authority from the decision of Judge Goldstone sitting in Watford County Court on May 18, 1995 whereby he made a supervision order in respect of a child on certain undertakings given by the mother.

The local authority had applied for a care order in respect of the child pursuant to section 31 of the 1989 Act with a care plan which proposed the removal of the child from the care of his mother for placement with short term foster parents and subsequent placement with long term foster parents with or without the possibility of adoption.

The judge was satisfied that the child was likely to suffer significant harm if no order were made under section 31 but decided that he should make a supervision order rather than a care order. He ordered the local authority to supervise the child for 12 months and directed that certain conditions be attached to the order.

The supervision order also contained the undertaking of the mother (i) to take the child to his school on time and to notify the school of any illness, (ii) to seek such treatment as might be recommended to her by the psychiatrist or medical unit at her local general hospital or such other hospital as might be recommended by her general practitioner, and (iii) to authorise the doctor to provide the local authority with details of her treatment and recommended treatment of one senior social worker.

Miss Elizabeth Ann Gumbel for the guardian ad litem and the local authority; Mr William Holland for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that it was submitted by Miss Gumbel that the judge had no power to make a supervision order in the terms of the order of May 18, 1995 and that in any event the judge was wrong to make a supervision order on the evidence before the court.

Miss Gumbel's principal submission on the jurisdiction point was that the judge had no power either to require or to accept an undertaking proffered on behalf of the mother.

In his Lordship's judgment, an undertaking was a promise to the court which was capable of being enforced by the court by way of proceedings for contempt if the undertaking was broken. The punishment for contempt might include a sentence of imprisonment or a fine.

An injunction was an order upon a litigant to do or refrain from doing any act and the consequences of breach were the same as those for breach of an undertaking.

In *Hussain v Hussain* ([1986] Fam 134, 139) Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, had considered the relationship between an injunction and an undertaking and in *Roberts v Roberts* ([1990] FCR 837, 839) Lord Justice Butler-Sloss had said that it was important for parties in matrimonial disputes to appreciate that an undertaking had all the force of an injunction.

It was also apparent that the enforcement provisions for an undertaking were the same as those for an injunction: see Order 29, rule 1 and rule 1A of the County Court Rules. Moreover, the general form of undertaking set out in Form N117 contained a warning that a consequence of a breach of an undertaking might be imprisonment for contempt.

It was therefore clear that for the purposes of enforcement an undertaking stood on an equal footing with an injunction. It was also to be remembered that a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant an injuction to protect children: see *D v D (Child case: Powers of court)* ([1994] 3 FCR 28) and *In re S and D (Children: Powers of court)* ([1995] 2 FLR 456).

It followed therefore that, as a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant injunctions, it could have no inherent jurisdiction to accept undertakings in care proceedings.

Nor could a county court accept undertakings as part of a supervision order. Part 1 of Schedule 3 made no provision for undertakings. As Lord Justice Waite had explained in *In re V (a Minor)* (unreported, June 13, 1994) the only sanction for an infringement of the terms of a supervision order was that it enabled the supervisor to return to the court.

His Lordship was therefore satisfied that Miss Gumbel was right. The judge was not entitled to accept undertakings from the mother, even though she was quite willing to give them. The supervision order was therefore defective in that respect.

Miss Gumbel had other criticisms of the form of the supervision order. She pointed out, quite rightly, that a requirement to submit to any medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor could only be made in accordance with paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 and could not be made under paragraph 2.

In those circumstances his Lordship was satisfied that the supervision order could not stand in its present form. Accordingly, it was necessary to consider Miss Gumbel's further arguments.

She submitted that the undertakings and the conditions were essential parts of the judge's order and that it was impossible to say whether, had the judge realised he could not accept the undertakings, he would have made a supervision order at all.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, however, that on a fair reading of the judge's judgment he had ruled out of consideration, as plainly not being in the child's interest, his removal from the mother. It was quite clear that the judge thought and indeed found that it would be wholly contrary to the child's best interest for the care plan to be implemented.

The scales had not just tipped in favour of a supervision order but had come down completely against a care order. It was to be noted that the judge found that the risk of damage to the child under a care order far outweighed the risks that would be taken by making a supervision order.

His Lordship was accordingly satisfied that, had the judge had pointed out to him, which it was not, that he was not empowered to accept undertakings, nevertheless he would have made a supervision order albeit taking into account the mother's agreement to undergo medical treatment.

His Lordship therefore turned to Miss Gumbel's other main submission, namely, that in any event the judge was plainly wrong because his findings were wholly against the weight of the evidence.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was entitled to find that the mother's rather fragile stability had been upset by the the legal proceedings and that she had been subjected to major stress.

The supervision order would have to be looked at again in a few months time. His Lordship did not find it possible to say, however, that the making of the supervision order was plainly wrong, nor was the case one where the court should interfere with the judge's decision on any other ground. Nevertheless the supervision order must be amended.

It seemed to his Lordship that at present it would be right that the mother's agreement to seek medical treatment should be recorded in a preamble in the supervision order so that if the mother failed to honour her agreement that failure could be brought to the attention of the court in due course. It would also be appropriate to record her further agreement to authorise her psychiatrist to provide the local authority with details of her treatment. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Mr Justice Bennett agreed.

Solicitors: Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford; Mr W. J. Church, Hertford; Pollards, Boreham Wood.

Correction

In *In re M (a Minor) (Habitual residence)* (*The Times* January 3) the junior counsel for the mother was Mr Adam Wilson.

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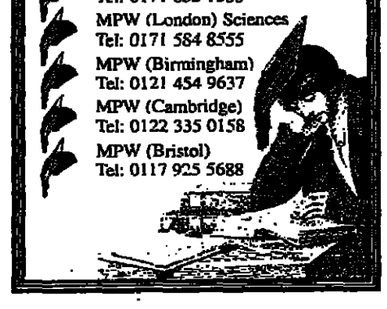
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PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: LICENCE TO OPERATE THE SHEUNG SHUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The Hong Kong Government is planning to construct a new slaughterhouse in area 28 of Sheung Shui, for completion in October 1998. The new Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH) will replace the Government-owned Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir and Kennedy Town Abattoir and the privately owned Yuen Long Slaughterhouse. Situated on a 5.7 hectare site, the slaughterhouse will have a slaughtering capacity of 5,000 pigs and 400 cattle per day. The Hong Kong Government intends to engage a private company in the operation and management of the SSSH, and now invites companies with experience in the operation of large-scale slaughterhouses to express interest for the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

The prospective operator of the SSSH will be selected among companies which have expressed interest and are found to be suitable and qualified to take up the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

Interested companies are invited to apply to:

Assistant Director (Special Project),
Regional Services Department,
7/F., Regional Council Building,
1-3 Pai Tau Street, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

Interested companies will be required to demonstrate their capabilities and experience in the management of large-scale slaughterhouses, and to explain how they propose to apply their experience and expertise in the management of the SSSH. They should also provide information on the history, structure, business and financial position of their companies.

An information note on the slaughterhouse and the application procedures and a set of the proposed broad terms of the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse can be obtained from the Hong Kong Government Office at No. 6 Grafton Street, W1X 3LB.

For further information and enquiries, please fax to the Regional Services Department at (852)2692 6867. The deadline for submission is 12 February 1996 (Hong Kong time). All submissions must be in English.

This invitation to express interest and any application in response will not create any relationships, contractual or otherwise, between Hong Kong Government and the parties submitting the applications.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Rules 1986
Rule 4.182(A)
ROPE AND ROPE LIMITED
In Members Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is Hereby Given that Miss J B Stephens, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Neville Russell, 24B Bishopsgate, London EC2 4PR, was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on 1st January 1996. The Liquidator gives notice, pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company, must send details in writing of any claims against the Company to the Liquidator at the above address by 8th February 1996. The Liquidator has given notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(4), that she intends to make a distribution in respect of debts who have submitted claims by 8th February 1996, whereafter a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given. Dated 8th January 1996
J B Stephenson - Liquidator
Note: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS
NAME OF COMPANY
BLUE WATER TRANSPORT (UK) LIMITED
Registered number 3017585
Former company name(s) Decorbonus Limited Nature of business Transporters of fresh fish Trade classification 78
Date of appointment of administrative receivers 27 December 1995 Name of person appointing the joint administrative receivers Barclays Bank plc Andrew David Conquest Joint Administrative Receiver Michael James Scott Joint Administrative Receiver Office holder Nos 5529 and 2663. Address Grant Thornton Crown House, Crown Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3HS.

(Companies Act 1985, Section 175)
Sigma Computer Engineering & Maintenance Limited
(registered in England number 2088302)
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
(1) The above named Company has approved a payment out of Capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase
(2) The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £27,293 and the Resolution approving such payment out of Capital was passed on the 5 day of January 1996
(3) The Statutory Declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 175 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Company's registered office at 516-518 Salisbury Road, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO4 3ND
(4) Any creditor of the Company may at any time within five weeks immediately following the fifth day of January 1996 apply to the Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an Order prohibiting payment.
Messrs. H Montlake & Co
197 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1LX
Solicitors for the Company

RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MICRO CONTRACTS LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE, THAT I, the undersigned Michael William Young of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HD, was appointed to act as Liquidator of Micro Contracts Limited by resolutions at the meetings of the company's members and creditors held on 4 January 1996
DATED 9th day of January 1996
M W YOUNG - LIQUIDATOR

LEGAL NOTICES

FIREFLY HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING LIMITED
IN RECEIVERSHIP
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Firefly High Visibility Clothing Limited is to be held at The Metropole Hotel, King Street, Leeds LS1 2HL on 9 January 1996 at 10.00 a.m. under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0113 244 2044).
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
R Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
20 December 1995

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS
KLYNTON DAYS LIMITED
Registered Number 2889624.
Nature of Business Textiles Manufacturer.
Trade Classification 08.
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver 4 January 1996
Name of Person Appointing Administrative Receiver National Westminster Bank PLC
Names of Administrative Receivers Roger Marsh and Richard James Rees.
Office Holder Numbers 5925 and 4620
Addresses 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN, Victoria House 76 Milton Street, Nottingham NG1 3QY.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
BAXTER RATCLIFF & CO LTD
Registered Number: 3828508
Nature of Business: Clothing Wholesaler. Trade Classification 13. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 4 January 1996 Name of Person Appointing: S Langley, MSPI and Melvyn S Langley, FCCA FSPI, of Langley & Partners, Langley House, Park Road, London N2 8EX, give notice that we were appointed Joint Liquidator of the above on 4 December 1995
Dated 4 January 1996
Alan Simon, AFA MIPA, MSPI and Melvyn S Langley, Joint Liquidators

PARAGON Fashions Limited
(IN LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that a first dividend will be paid within a period of four months from the last date of proving. The last date for creditors to prove claims in this liquidation is 31 January 1996
Creditors of the above named Company should send their addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their debt or claims to K P Barry, FCA Leonard Curtis & Co PO Box 553, 30 East bourne Terrace, London W2 6LF Under Rule 11.3(2) a Liquidator is not obliged to deal with claims lodged after the date of proving.
DATED 21st OF DECEMBER 1995
K. P BARRY, Liquidator

WOLFENSOHN & CO (AN UNLIMITED COMPANY) (IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Company number 2717984
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF WOLFENSOHN & CO (AN UNLIMITED COMPANY)
On 29 December 1995 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Peter Sheldon Padmore FCA and David John Bird, FCA of Price Waterhouse The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3QG were appointed liquidators by the shareholders.
The liquidators gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules, 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidators at the above address by 2 February 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
This notice is purely formal, as the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 9 January 1996.
Peter Sheldon Padmore.
Joint Liquidator.

LESLIE HENSON GARAGE SERVICES LTD
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at Trafalgar House, 8/10 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF on 16th January 1996 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 et seq of the said Act
Peter Lawrence, Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of Moore Stephens Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 8th January 1996
By Order of the Board
LESLIE HENSON Esq, Director

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
SHOE PARTNERS LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address 2nd Floor, 57 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 2AR
Company Number 1375744
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 4 January 1996 K S Chalk was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up)
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator by 19 February 1996 the last date for proving at the following address under reference KSC/SJA/TAR
Touche Ross & Co
Columbia Centre
Market Street
Bracknell, Berkshire
RG12 1PA

The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 006899 of 1995
Exeor Travel Ltd (In Liquidation)
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1987, We, Alan Simon, AFA MIPA, MSPI and Melvyn S Langley, FCCA FSPI, of Langley & Partners, Langley House, Park Road, London N2 8EX, give notice that we were appointed Joint Liquidator of the above on 4 December 1995
Dated 4 January 1996
Alan Simon, AND Melvyn S. Langley, Joint Liquidators

The Insolvency Act 1986
FIRST ACTION EVENTS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 26th January 1996 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require
Dated 4th day of January 1996
By Order of the Board
EMMA REYNOLDS, Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.



■ DANCE

Flamenco was never more ambitious than in a new Spanish import at Sadler's Wells



■ THEATRE 1

Persian theology mingled with the mime of a modern Iranian exile make for *A Strange Bit of History*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 2

. . . while Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is intelligently staged in a fringe festival



■ TOMORROW

Furore in Perth: Scottish hackles are raised over plans to demolish the city hall

Loose outfit well suited to every style

JAZZ

Julian Arguelles Quartet
Vortex, N16

Even in the current British jazz scene, unprecedentedly hospitable as it is to all manner of musical styles, the saxophonist Julian Arguelles is something of a phenomenon.

His openness to the plethora of rhythms and textures found in contemporary pop, dance and world musics marks him out even from fellow alumni of Loose Tubes, the 1980s big band which was a byword for such adventurous musical eclecticism.

The instrumentation of the quartet Arguelles presented to a warmly appreciative Vortex audience on this occasion flagged his intentions from the off. In front of his drummer brother Steve, whose own projects are as likely to touch on calypso or country and western as on jazz, he had Oren Marshall on tuba and assorted electronics, and Alex Lewis, a man capable of producing a startling variety of keyboard sounds.

Their music began, appropriately enough, with the purest, most elemental of sounds: a wooden flute floating over a growling tuba drone, punctuated by sudden resonating crashes from Steve Arguelles's hand-held gongs. In time, however, a rhythm emerged on cymbal and side-drums, and Julian Arguelles switched to skirling tenor to bring the piece, called *Owl*, slowly to the boil.

A hymn, Gustav Holst's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, followed, drawing an affecting, keening earnestness from the leader's tenor for the stately theme, and a full-throated sonorousness from him in the succeeding improvisation upon it.

Three originals followed, two — the jaunty soprano piece *Hix* and the tenor ballad *First Escapade* — taken from Julian Arguelles's latest album *Home Truths*. The other, *Skull Video*, was an extraordinary confection of industrial electronic noise and majestic, swirling tenor all set to a pounding rhythm that owed as much to contemporary jungle music as to jazz.

The quartet's second set was equally imaginative, juxtaposing folkish, John Surman-like soprano meditations; sinister washes of multitextured sound ranging from high-frequency shrieking to deep tuba rumblings, and the odd perky harmonised theme played simultaneously on two recorders.

The closing piece, Steve Arguelles's *Don't Tell Me Now*, featuring a straightforward driving tenor sax over a funky, percussive shuffle beat, was almost shockingly conventional by comparison, but it drew a lengthy and richly deserved ovation from the club's typically enthusiastic and discerning audience. Overall, they and I agreed, this was a superbly original gig.

CHRIS PARKER

DANCE: **Nadine Meisner** sees the shock of the new lose out to a familiar passion



DEE CONWAY

Ana Soler and Arturo Aguilar, the lovers in a confusing — and dull — tale of Andalusian betrayal, happily make amends when Corazón Flamenco returns to better-known pastures

Sex, please, we're British

Corazón Flamenco
Sadler's Wells

The Japanese are apparently crazy about flamenco — and so, almost as much, are the British. Companies led by Antonio, by Carmen Amaya and by José Greco came and wowed the British between the 1940s and 1960s. Then followed a lull until, ten years ago, the Cumbre Flamenca troupe, directed by Francisco Sánchez, began its regular visits to this country and ignited enthusiasm again, producing packed-out seasons at Sadler's Wells.

Will Sánchez repeat his success with his new group? Corazón Flamenco — the heart of flamenco — is a wonderful name, since from the heart comes pulse, life and feeling, which are also the essence of flamenco. But where Sánchez's old company aimed simply to offer the pinnacle (*cumbre*) of flamenco in a straightforward format of dance and song numbers, Corazón Flamenco appears to have more complex ambitions.

What should flamenco be? Cabaret schlock for tourists? A glossy virtuosic display for opera houses? Or should it return to its purer, humbler café days of the 19th century?

Sánchez is probably a traditionalist at heart, who prefers to discard commercially prettified costume and the later introduction of castanets. But I suspect he also believes that flamenco must evolve in order to stay alive. He surely accepts that it has become sophisticated, technically brilliant theatre. It is no longer the exclusive domain of Andalusian gypsies, having been embraced by ballet-trained youngsters of varied origins — such as some of his own dancers.

And he probably sees the first half of the programme he has created as treading a little-explored narrative path — although in fact flamenco and stories *have* been linked before, if you think of Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo* (1915) and the Antonio Gades-Carlos Saura film *Carmen*, which comes in its stage form to Sadler's Wells in May.

> ‘Should flamenco return to its purer days?’

Alas, *Noche de Santiago*, the drama of an illicit love affair during the Andalusian festival of the night of July 25-26 (St James's Night), makes a tedious opener, lacking pace and curiously muted. A programme note declares that any self-respecting director should make the action clear without resort to a synopsis — or the help of the accompanying songs which, sung in Andalusian dialect, are reportedly incomprehensible even to Spaniards.

But the piece fails to project its points through its imagery and, for me, toppled into ambiguity at the crucial climax, leaving me unsure whether it was the husband or lover who shot the woman.

After the interval the ghastly resonant amplification that had insulted the singers' voices seemed to have sorted itself out, and the auditorium temperature warmed palpably as we realised we were back in the reassuring territory of the familiar Cumbre Flamenca approach.

Manuela Carrasco, opulent and statuesque, built paroxysms of footbeats in the desolate laments of a *siguiriya*; then, clad in sensational white, she absorbed herself in the proud, meditative sorrow of *soled*, concluding with her arms extended magnificently in a crucifix and exiting in slow-motion, stately profile, like the figurehead of a ship.

José Fernández, willowy, mannered and resplendent in a hectically patterned waistcoat, brought his unique style to an *alegrías*, rectilinear arms jerking up as conclusions to passages of footwork, as though throwing away bundles of his inner anguish. And Susi sang *cantes de Levante* with the soul-piercing grainy Arabic voice that has earned her the sobriquet La Camarona, after the celebrated flamenco singer El Camerón.

So it became evident that flamenco needs to allow performers to reveal their individual personalities if it is to touch its audience and avoid monotony. The young, elfin Ana Soler and Arturo Aguilar, who had seemed so attenuated as the lovers in *Noche de Santiago*, seemed this time to click together, invisible emotional threads binding them in their *bulerías* duet.

The curtain fell, the audience clamoured for more. Is it the very un-Englishness of this intense expression of pain, joy and sexuality that appeals to us?

LONDON THEATRE: Ibsen's moral tale; and a slice of religious history

The perils of cupboard love

A Doll's House
BAC, Battersea

IBSEN'S marital drama of a naive banker's wife, embroiled in secret debts and spiralling fibs, still ends with a bang. Even today Mrs Nora Helmer, who grows enlightened through being stained, concludes with startling boldness, questioning society's moral creeds and walking out on her children and Torvald, her not so much fondly protective as patronising and imprisoning husband.

Alison Brown's production, transferring from Camden's Etcetera Theatre to the BAC's "I Wish I'd Seen That" fringe revival season, is most arresting in its final moments. Overall, though above par, the staging does not convey all of Ibsen's psychologically subtle interactions.

Richard Trahair's Torvald, here not obviously older than his wife, is convincingly tactile but needs to drive home the domineering possessiveness underlying his pet endearments of "little squirrel" and "songbird". Cathy Rakoff's Kristine, Nora's work-hardened former classmate, could sharpen up her bitter comments.

But really it is the gentlemen callers — skirting over the sketchy housemaids — who let the side down. Torvald's friend, the terminally ill Dr Rank (Martin Hyder), is short on dry humour and hardly shows a flicker of sexual interest before declaring his burning passion for Nora. Meanwhile, Nora's menacing creditor Nils Krogstad (Mark Gillis) seems more embarrassed than potently manipulative.

Nevertheless, Julia Stubbs takes a strong line on Nora, portraying her as already unstable, curling her wrists inwards as if almost clinically retarded. Her nervous breathiness suggestively conveys the panic of a trapped bird even in her Christmas excitement.

Starting in this state does not leave her much room to progress towards mental breakdown as Krogstad's grip on her reputation tightens, and this Nora's ungroomed appearance makes her attempt at playing the seductive belle seem out of character. However Stubbs conveys insecurity and selfish thoughtlessness with forceful innocence.

Brown's naturalistic set admirably amasses, no doubt on a piggy-bank budget, a full parlour's-worth of fine yet claustrophobically sombre furnishings. And the theatre's illuminated exit signs overhead look increasingly meaningful as our heroine toys with suicide and finally slams the front door behind her.

KATE BASSETT

Persian tale rudely interrupted

A Strange Bit of History
Riverside, W6

THE historical bit, certainly strange to me, is the life and death (in 1850) of the Bab, a young Persian regarded by his disciples as a messiah, whose preachings lie behind the foundation of the Baha'i faith. His story is approached, along a singularly oblique route, in the first of two 60-minute solo performances by Omid Djalili, a comic actor born in London of Iranian parents. Growing up to think of himself as short, fat and looking like a kebab-shop owner's son, he disarmingly calls the second, autobiographical half of the show *Short Fat Kebab-Shop Owner's Son*.

The drapes are black, the edges of the stage are black. Djalili wears a loose black shirt and trousers, but the wall behind him is a four-part screen, usually rose-red, onto which random illustrations of the 19th century are projected and against which Djalili hops, skips and whirls his arms, or stands in portly profile as the lights go down.

The story of the Bab is the all too familiar one of a man who preaches tolerance, honesty and peace, and is therefore hunted down and executed by the religious authorities of his day, along with some 20,000 of his followers.

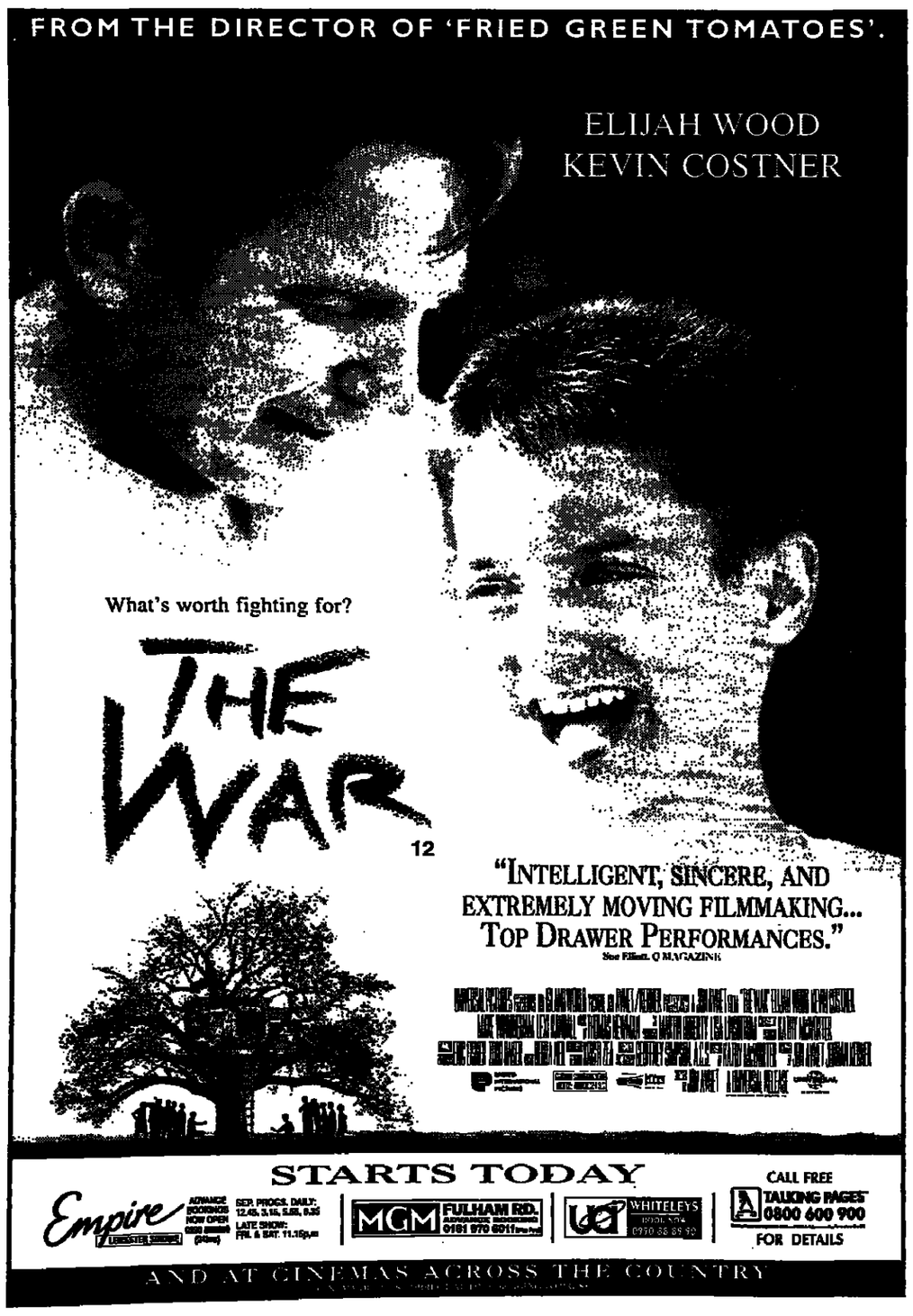
Most unexpectedly, Djalili's viewpoint on these events is that of the chief executioner whose days are occupied beheading the heretics but who one day sees the captured Bab face to face. The piece has been written by Annabel Knight, who also directs, and she and Djalili weave their circuitous tale like a shaggy dog story, where the shape is hard to discern until the last few moments.

While the scenes at an English tea party may contribute to the historical background, they really seem included so that Djalili can show his lightning-quick role changes between orientalist, colonel and society lady. He does this skilfully, turning fan into swagger stick, military frown into simper.

But the other batch of non-Persian scenes gives us, of all things, a modern Mersey poet reciting his banal stuff in a spotlight. There may be a connection between this and Baha'i teaching but I couldn't locate it. What I wanted Djalili to do was continue the tale of the Executioner, who memorably describes the Bab's voice as "rich, deep and unbearable, somehow," while staring out at us with an expression of appalled wonder.

His account of growing up as an Iranian in the 1970s has its amusing moments, and his mimicry is mostly spot-on — in one short sketch exactly catching the vocal rhythm of an Arab employer, a Pakistani greengrocer and an impatient Nigerian in the queue. But his material needs to be much tighter, and the spoof British film noir doesn't work at all. He is a likeable entertainer, nonetheless, and cleverly mimes a magic show, but his executioner confronting the Bab hints at emotional depths which he is, as yet, only momentarily reaching.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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هكذا من الأصل



■ POP 1

From Debussy to Aphex Twin: an intriguing new CD chronicles the *history of* ambient music



■ POP 2

Yoko Ono, now 62, confronts demons on her first solo recording in a decade

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 3

Bruce Springsteen is among the legion of stars on the soundtrack album of *Dead Man Walking*



■ POP 4

Country music, but not as we know it: the genre-bending Mavericks come to Britain

Picking up good vibrations

NEW ALBUMS: **David Sinclair** on a stunning exploration of the natural and manufactured sounds of music; plus the week's other releases

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Ocean of Sound
(Virgin AMBT 10; two discs)
LOVINGLY assembled by the author, musician and contributor to *The Times*, David Toop, *Ocean of Sound* is an intriguing and free-ranging exploration of the roots and branches of so-called "ambient" music. Designed as a companion to Toop's book, *Ocean of Sound — Aether Talk, Ambient Sound And Imaginary Worlds* (published by Serpent's Tail), it is a compilation of tracks that all shed light in one way or another on the often overlooked relationship between the sound of music and the sounds of the environment from whence it came.

The album's range is phenomenal, extending from the frantic squalls of free jazz noise produced (acoustically) by the Peter Brotzmann Octet on their 1968 recording of *Machine Gun* and the distressed guitar overload of the Velvet Underground (*I Heard Her Call My Name*) and My Bloody Valentine (*Loomer*) to the barely detectable background hum of Brian Eno's *Lizard Point* and the pastoral beauty of Claude Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après Midi d'un Faune*, played by the English Chamber Orchestra. Along the way we hear "field" recordings of Buddhist chants, howler monkeys, boat horns, train whistles, birdsong and the extraordinary whistling of bearded seals.

The imaginative sequencing and skilful editing together of the tracks to produce a virtually seamless listening experience is impressive. Unlikely connections are forged between, for instance, the 1970s jazz-fusion of Herbie Hancock's *Rain Dance* and the 1990s ambient-techno sound of Aphex Twin's *Analogue Bubblebath 1*, and there is the most wonderful sequence when the gruff, ululating voice of a Yanomami rainforest shaman melts into the opening piano motif of Harold Budd's delicate Bismillahi *'Rrahmani 'Rrahim*. Elsewhere the repetitive minimalism of Erik Satie's composition *Vexations* contrasts with the complex vocal dynamics of a short Beach Boys' piece called *Fall Breaks and Back Into Winter*.

As a vehicle for illustrating Toop's point — that there is a hidden world of music within the sounds that are occurring around us all the time, and that these sounds help to shape and determine our notions of what music actually is — *Ocean of Sound* functions magnificently. Both timely and scholarly, it is an album that could alter the way in which you perceive music itself.

YOKO ONO
Rising
(Capitol 8 35817)
CAST less often these days as that wailing woman who drove a wedge between John Lennon and the other Beatles, and increasingly recognised instead as something of a role model for a younger generation of female performers in rock, Yoko Ono has not released a new solo album for a decade or so. She is now 62, and to judge from *Rising* it has been 20 years since she last listened to modern popular music with any great interest.

But her enthusiasm for confronting demons, both inner and external, remains undiminished and, despite the album's dependence on quaint generic pop-funk riffs and piano ballads, this is a passionate and at times moving account of her innermost fears, hopes and struggles.

Undertaken initially as a soundtrack for Ron Destro's play *Hiroshima*, many of the numbers were inspired by her harrowing memories of life in Japan during and after the Second World War. Notwithstanding the apocalyptic imagery of *Warzone* and the extended gargling routine of the 14-minute title track, the majority of the songs are pithy and poetic.

Accompanied by her son Sean Lennon and his fledgeling group IMA, she sings of her growing sense of isolation on *Turned the Corner* and poses some suitably Big Questions on *Where Do We Go From Here*. At its best — as when she sings *Will I* to the sound of a single, looped note set against the ticking of a clock — the album is stark, simple and surprisingly affecting.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN AND OTHERS
Dead Man Walking
(Columbia 483534)
FEATURING music not only "from" but also "inspired by" the film in question (directed by Tim Robbins and starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn), *Dead Man Walking* boasts an impressive haul of new compositions by artists including Lyle Lovett, Steve Earle, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Michelle Shocked.

The bleak nature of the film, which explores the moral dilemma of a Catholic nun whose loyalties are torn between a convicted murderer and his victim's relatives, doubtless explains the unremittingly sombre tone of most songs. For Bruce Springsteen, currently on a tediously earnest folk jag, it's ideal. His title track is exactly the dirge you would expect, while Patti Smith (*Walkin Blind*) and Suzanne Vega (*Woman On The Tier*) are two of the more striking voices amid the general chorus of despair.

There are, however, welcome traces of black humour amid the funereal rumblings of Tom Waits and Johnny Cash. But it is left to the unlikely partnership of Pakistani singer Nusret Fateh Ali Khan and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam to provide both album and film with a genuinely distinctive musical core.

ST ETIENNE DAHO
Reserection
(Virgin 7243 8 93070)
IN A week of challenging, cross-cultural collaborations, the strangest has to be the entente cordiale between French cult crooner Etienne Daho and synth-pop scenesters St Etienne from Croydon. Having spotted the potential for a uniquely stylish name, the participants quickly joined up the musical dots and *voilà!* the world is blessed with *Reserection*, a four-and-a-half-track EP of Anglo-Gallic pop full of artful poise.

Accident (better known as *He's on the Phone*), which is sung by St Etienne's Sarah Cracknell, has its charm. But Daho overpowers the sub-Stone Roses groove of *Jungle Pulse* and the pop ballad *Le Baiser Français* with his suspiciously smooth patter and breathy ardour.







Ambient warriors: (Top) the Beach Boys; (above left) the Aphex Twin; (above right) Claude Debussy

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2	Robson & Jerome	Robson & Jerome (RCA)
3	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
4	HIStory	Michael Jackson (Epic)
5	Said and Done	Boyzone (Polydor)
6	Something to Remember	Madonna (Maverick)
7	Made in Heaven	Queen (Parlophone)
8	The Memory of Trees	Enya (WEA)
9	Power of a Woman	Eternal (EMI)
10	Jagged Little Pill	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)

© CIN

Just gimme some truth

Billy Joel got at least one thing right – honesty *is* such a lonely word, especially in the pop world

Something unpredicted happened last week — unusual for the music industry, that is, where everything is planned and expected at least six months in advance. Michael Eavis, organiser of the Glastonbury Festival, announced that there would be no Glastonbury this year, as he wanted to rest his land, and concentrate on running as a Labour candidate in the local elections. He felt he couldn't give his full efforts to either cause if he indulged in both, and has therefore called off the week-long celebration of falafel dominated by sunburnt, grubby men called Ian wearing jester hats and drinking scrumpy. What an extraordinary move — someone telling the truth, and realising the limits of their abilities. Imagine if it caught on . . .



CAITLIN MORAN

George Michael would have admitted, in all the publicity around the release of his new single *Jesus to a Child*, that he'd simply been too busy, what with the court case against Sony, the planning involved in growing his new beard and everything, to write a tune. "It's got a picture of me on the cover, and the B-side is an acoustic demo of me doing *Wham Rap!*, but there's nothing hummable. Sorry."

Robbie Williams, formerly of Take That, would revoke all his previous quotes about his joy over Take That breaking America, and admit he was absolutely gutted, and rather wished he'd just bitten his lip and stuck in there, as he'd have private helicopters and the freedom of Stoke-on-Trent by now.

And Axl Rose of Guns N' Roses would admit that his stage name — hilariously enough, an anagram of "Oral Sex" — was amusing when he thought of it, aged 16; but now, at the age of 31, he feels slightly foolish when people call him "Axl", and he wants to revert to his real name of William.

The pop world has always been a very silly one: grown women and men pretending to be "hard" and "cool" onstage, when in reality they have sniffly colds, and would rather be at home drinking Horlicks and watching old videos of *Casualty*. But it becomes depressing when the public is expected to believe that every single will be greater and poppier than the one before: that every album is a progression and will sell more than the last: and that two pop stars are always better than one.

This simply isn't the truth. It's not truthful to say that Michael Jackson's career has been one huge artistic line going straight up, and that *Black or White* was better than *Thriller*, and that *Earth Song* is better than *Black or White*. It quite clearly isn't — it's a hysterical man stomping around bellowing "What about Africa/Bosnia too?/What about the animals?" in the most wretched display of No. Really You're Being Too Subtle since Madonna's *Sex*.

And pop-stars duets are *never* better than just one pop star on their own — Aretha Franklin and Annie Lennox wailing over each other on *Sisters are Doing it for Themselves* was excruciating. Annie should have heeded her own lyrics, and *just done it by herself*.

And the public would *love* it, I'm sure, if Jarvis Cocker came out and said: "Well, our next single's really not as good as *Common People*, but you can only write a song that good once a year, and you should all wait for the next album." Then we'd all know where we stood, and wouldn't think Pulp's career was over when the single peaked at 32.

Wild horses drag rock into the country

Paul Sexton meets those hard-blasting, easy-listening, award-winning Nashville twangers, the Mavericks



Everyone's invited to the Mavericks' party — including Elvis, Ray Conniff and Buck Owens

Raul Malo has a pet phrase. The lead singer of the Mavericks is fond of asking "Why not?" When one ponders the format-challenging, genre-straddling success of America's hottest country band, the only possible response is another question: Why?

Who ever heard of a country band coming from Florida with a second generation Cuban for a frontman? What odds would you get against four friends who started out playing bar gigs for bemused bikers winding up as the Country Music Association's reigning Vocal Group of the Year? And what about that page in Nashville's etiquette manual that states, in large type, that Country Bands Must Not Fraternise With Rock Audiences?

The Mavericks have made confetti of the manual with a series of albums in which their love of both rock'n'roll icons and easy listening crooners has produced a meaningful and happy marriage. One in which the ghosts of Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison live on the same block as Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, and meet for a long-playing party at the Country Music Hall of Fame with Eddy Arnold and Buck Owens.

In the past year, numerous extra-curricular activities have shown that this is a country act with a different agenda from the guys with big hats and bad moustaches. The Mavericks appeared on the tribute album to Southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd, contributed *True Love Ways* to a forthcoming Buddy Holly tribute, and got their version of *Blue Moon* on to the soundtrack of *Apollo 13*. Malo even co-wrote and sings on a track on an impending album by Neil Diamond. But then this is the man who happily tells you: "I enjoy Ray Conniff records as much as Alanis Morissette records."

It's a cross-pollination that reaches a new level on the current Mavericks album, *Music for all Occasions*, in which the word "retro" becomes a compliment again. Last Sunday in Dublin, the Mavericks opened their first full-scale European tour with a show at the Olympia that set music back about 40 years. If there is a more unpretentiously enjoyable concert in 1996, I look forward to it. Here were tales both old and new of empty glasses and broken hearts: classics like *Tonight the Bottle Let Me Down* and *Make the World Go Away* and group compositions such as *Missing You*, *Here Comes the Rain*, and the show-stopping *I Should Have Been True*, the best song Roy Orbison never recorded. Not to mention a helping of *Jambalaya* and a splendid *Guantanamera*. And all because, Malo says, the Mavericks are still in this for the laughs.

"If 'retro' means let's have some fun, then why not?" he says, giving his catchphrase another airing. "We watch a lot of old footage on the bus, and there's an episode of Johnny Carson where Dean Martin, Joey Bishop and Bob Hope are on the show, and they're all drunk as hell, they're all smoking . . . If you were to do that now, you'd be in serious trouble. We've become so concerned about being politically correct that we can't do or say a damned thing anymore.

"Part of our own little mission is hey, just relax. I don't know of any artist who's curing cancer, or saved humanity. I'm as involved as the next artist in charitable affairs, but to take your work so seriously is kind of a travesty. It's just music, and we're lucky to be doing it."

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the Mavericks' steady rise is the extent to which they have maintained such a distinctly rock 'n' roll outlook on their life and work, yet still been embraced by the Nashville establishment, hardly renowned for its open-mindedness. The fact that bassist Robert Reynolds is married to country demi-goddess Trisha Yearwood is no hindrance, but in previous instances of an artist challenging certain genre rules — as k.d. lang discovered — the state of Tennessee has responded with a forceful "Not today, thank you".

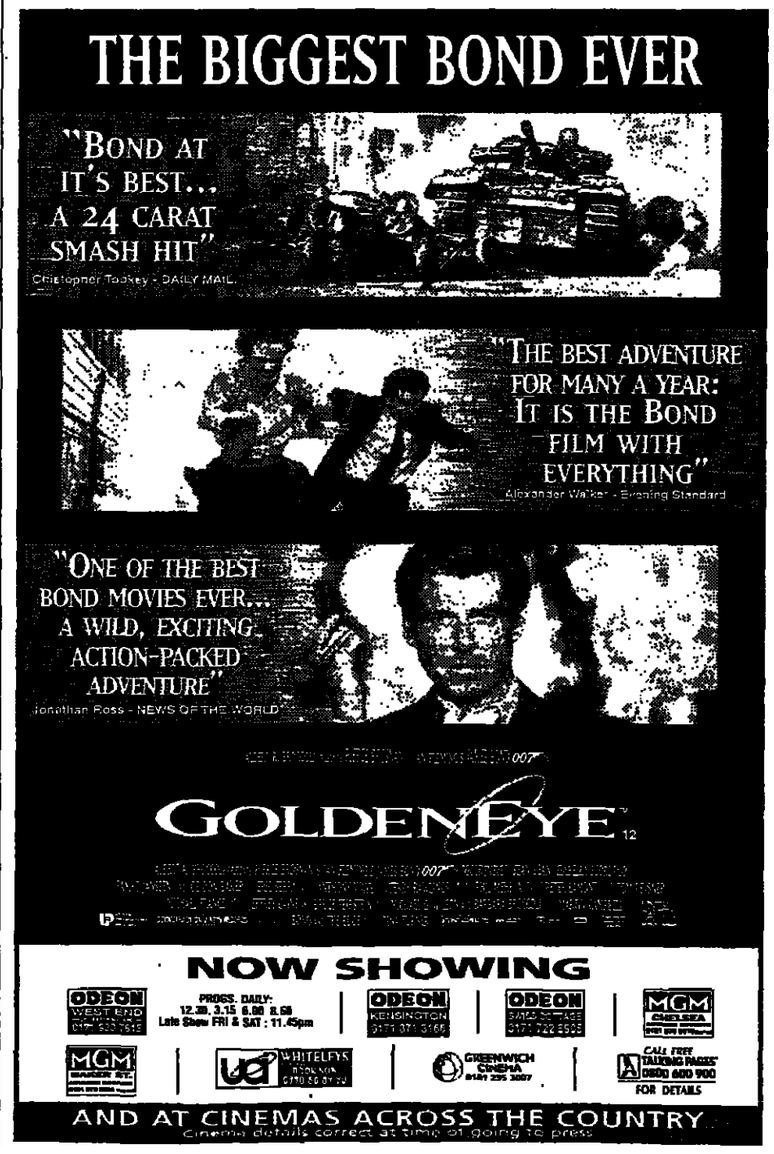
"I saw footage of the CMA Awards", Malo says, "and we pretty much look like a bunch of freaks compared to everybody else. That's not something we planned, it's just the way we are." But it did not stop the Mavericks from leaving country's gala night last October with their trophy.

Some three years ago, the group left Miami and made Nashville their home. "I have a lot of good friends in Nashville," Malo says. "There's a very cool segment of the industry there. Miami was getting out of hand, and we realised early on we could either stay there and play for a couple hundred bucks a week in whatever club, play all night and sleep all day, or actually get up off our asses and go to work, get in a van and pay our dues.

"Tell you the truth, it was pretty risky. We didn't know if Nashville would be the right place for us. But we thought it would be good for business and, hell, if we can shake things up a bit, why not? And it's worked out great."

British audiences have five chances to see the Mavericks' musical democracy in action later this month. Conniff fans welcome, but please, no labels.

● *The Mavericks play Shepherd's Bush Empire on Jan 25 and 26, Norwich University (Jan 28), Manchester University Academy (Jan 29) and Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (Jan 30). The album* Music For All Occasions *is released by MCA. Here Comes the Rain is released as a single at the end of the month*



هكذا من الأصل

صكزامين الأصل



■ CHOICE 1

No talking, please: silent wonders meet for London's Mime Festival

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Purcell Room



■ CHOICE 2

The Bournemouth Orchestra plays Sibelius and Tchaikovsky

VENUE: Portsmouth, Fri Bournemouth, Sun

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CHOICE 3

Sir Charles Mackerras directs Mahler's Seventh Symphony

VENUE: Free Trade Hall, Manchester, tomorrow



■ VISUAL ART

Christie's mounts a fascinating show that portrays Brazil as early visitors saw it

VISUAL ART: **John Russell Taylor** views South America through European eyes

Colonial brush in Brazil

There is generally something fascinating, for self-centred Europeans at least, in observing how other lands have been seen at first contact, interpreted and reinterpreted. The history of *Brazil through European Eyes* goes back, in the current exhibition at Christie's, to 1631, when João Teixeira Albernaz's atlas *O Estado do Brasil*, mapping the whole coastline, was first published. This is a tribute to Portuguese map-making skills, as one might expect.

What one would really not expect, however, is the predominance of Dutch and Flemish painters in the area during the 17th century. But the Dutch at that period were trying to establish a presence on the mainland of South America. For a while they occupied the sugar-growing regions of Pernambuco, and in 1637-44 Prince Maurice of Nassau-Siegen brought out a group of artists and scholars to document the new lands.

Among the artists were Frans Post, Albert Eckhout and probably Gillis Peeters, all represented in the show. Sometimes, as in *Peeters's View of Recife*, one would guess that the work was at least completed in Europe, and while some of Post's landscapes of coastal Brazil may have been done on the spot, his views of the interior, much in demand by Dutch buyers in love with the exotic, clearly owe more to imagination than practical observation. No doubt, like many 19th-century orientalist painters, he came home with enough material in his notebooks to last him, imaginatively supplemented, for the rest of his life.



For the makers of Gobelins tapestries, such as *The Fishermen*, the "Nouvelles Indes" became an abstraction

The 18th century brings in three wildly various viewpoints. For the makers of Gobelins tapestries, the "Nouvelles Indes" become a sort of Arcadian abstraction, in which the characters escape being allegorical by a hair's breadth and the flora and fauna, though presumably based on scientific sources, are acclimatised to the conventions of contemporary theatrical spectacle.

Sydney Parkinson took the flora a good deal more seriously: his graceful botanical studies, done while he was circumnavigating the world with Cook, contrive to be both formally and scientifically exact. As for the artist thought to be Joaquim Jose de Miranda, his enthusiastic strip cartoon, chronicling in 39 panels a meeting between a government expedition and the Indians of Campos de Carrapato in 1771 has a primitive vitality all its own.

With the Romantics we are on more familiar and reliable territory. Painters such as E.E. Shute, who painted the Paolo Afonso Falls in 1850, found an irresistible call to Sublimity, while Johann Moritz Rugendas evoked Indians shooting a jaguar with arrows as though they had stepped straight out of *Paul et Virginie*.

In strong contrast are the ease and elegance of Jean-Baptiste Debret's watercolours for his *Voyage Pittoresque et Historique au Bresil (1834-39)*, which seem to be mostly about social life in the towns. Humour there is in plenty, but it is difficult to know whether social comment is lurking beneath the surface when he depicts the *Return of the Naturalist's Black Assistant* loaded with specimens, or shows a grandee unconcernedly urinating against a house wall while his slave diligently shades him with a parasol.

● Brazil through European Eyes *is at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060) Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-5pm, until Jan 26*

Young Russians unite

CONCERT

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

Yana Polyanovskaya and Irina Feoktistova, both graduates of the St Petersburg Conservatoire, have been playing as a piano duo for ten years, and it shows. Not only is the ensemble perfect, but they have completely mastered the art of tightening and relaxing rhythms in unison, as well as instinctively setting foreground detail against background accompaniment, swapping roles imperceptibly as the music demands.

All this was evident in Rachmaninov's Suite No 2, a warm, effusive performance, utterly Romantic. So uncanny was the precision of ensemble, effected with a minimum of gestures, that one empathised with the shadow of frustration that flickered across Polyanovskaya's face at the one chord in the recital that was not quite together.

A similar mastery was demonstrated in Valery Borubikov's transcription of Schnittke's *Gogol Suite*, where the irony was at once entertaining and unsettling. Geoffrey Poole's *The Impersonal Touch*, receiving its world premiere, offered multiple opportunities for sophisticated interaction between instruments. The Russians emerged triumphant.

The pianism of the Italian Lorenzo Marasso is very different. No less secure technically, his playing is forceful and big-boned. Whether this was appropriate in a work that began life as a harp piece, Paul Patterson's *A Tunnel of Time*, is open to question; certainly the shifting colours of the toccata finale were less evident than a sense of weighty virtuosity. In Paul Robinson's *The Faraday Wheel*, according to the composer, a Wesleyan hymn is "shredded, pulverised and aggressively processed". This seemed to suit Marasso much better, and if there were occasional flights of lyricism in that piece and Nimrod Borenstein's Suite (world premiere), there was also much of a more demonstrative nature. James MacMillan's austere Piano Sonata was suitably bleak, with bursts of glassy brilliance.

The violinist Katharine Gowers and pianist Julian Milford began their recital with Ellen Zwilich's Sonata. *There was plenty of the required spiky rhythms and incisive articulation, from both instruments, while a more lyrical side emerged in Lutoslawski's Partita, which rose to heights of impassioned intensity. Technical accomplishment was secure here, just as a reflective, otherworldly quality was present in Cage's Nocturne.* William Bolcom's Sonata has both dreamy syncopations and a more vigorous, jazzy swing, with Joe Venuti-inspired slides. Gowers's performance, with strong rhythmic support from the piano, made a powerful case for this attractive, too little played work.

BARRY MILLINGTON

LONDON

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL Seventeen days of mime, narratives and the stunning skills of contemporary visual theatre opens tonight with Moscow Bonfo: a fascinating wordless monologue for one performer. Maggie Maggart and five mainstreams Companies appear from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK, all of them at strong town
Information (0171-437 5661) Until Jan 28

LINDSAY QUARTET Britain's superb, occasionally eccentric string quartet opens its three concerts about their specialities this weekend. It is known around the world as an remarkable American ensemble, the Emerson. But the Quartet opens a Beethoven cycle of its own on the South Bank on Jan 24
Wigmore Hall Wigmore St W1 (0171-935 2141) Tonight, Sat 7.30pm

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Last few performances here for this meticulously loud mix of The Tempest and Ghost Busters from the 1950s and 1960s
Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue WC2 (0171 379 5399) Tonight and tomorrow 5pm and 8.00pm

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

PORTSMOUTH/BOURNEMOUTH Robert Spano leads the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** for tonight's programme of Sibelius's colourful *Lemminkainen Legends* suite and *Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5*. Edward Main takes up the baton on Sunday in Bournemouth for what should be an entertaining mix of works, including Saint-Saens's *Dance Macabre*, two favourites from Mussorgsky, and Arnold's *Tam O'Shanter*, among others
Guildhall, Guildhall Square (01705 834355) Tonight, 7.30pm **Winter Gardens**, Exeter Road (01202 297297) Sun, 3.30pm

GLASGOW **Scottish Opera** opens the new year with Humperdinck's enchanting fairy-tale, *Hansel and Gretel*. Guido Ajmone-Marsan conducts Claire Brodshaw as Hansel, Cathrine Smith as Gretel and Elizabeth Vaughan, the Witch. Mark Tinkler directs. David Pountney's translation
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight, 7.15pm (S)

LIVERPOOL Richard Rodney Bennett's *Partita for orchestra* makes its **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** *premiere tomorrow*, as part of the BT celebration series. Vernon Handley conducts the programme, which includes Hindemith's Cello Concerto No 1 and Elgar's Symphony No 1
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789) Sat, 7.30pm (S)

MANCHESTER Sir Charles Mackerras makes a welcome return to the **BBC Philharmonic**, opening tomorrow's concert with Beethoven's Two Romances for Violin and Orchestra, followed by Mahler's atmospheric Symphony No 7
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712) Sat, 7.30pm

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) **National Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery** Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy** David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Tate** The Art of War 1939-45 (0171-887 8000) **V&A** Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ *House full, returns only*
◪ *Some seats available*
☐ *Seats at all prices*

☐ **BETJEMANIA** *Musical review based on the work of John Betjeman. Extended version of the 1970s show by David Bernadictus (Actress) and John Gould (music)*
King's Head Upper Street N1 (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 6pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm

◪ **BLOOD KNOT** Athol Fugard's celebrated 1961 play, directed by Jonathan Lloyd, the difficult dreams of two Boer-African brothers, one light-skinned, the other dark. A Strange Fish Production
Gate Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0387) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

◪ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Final performances for Ian Judge's popular but over-dance production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge
Barbican Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm (S)

■ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra
Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 3pm (S)

☐ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Rowan McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their lairs
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Tonight, 8pm Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm Final week (S)

■ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes's radiant production Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter, Ben Walden is Tom
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 3pm

☐ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm (S)

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Peter Hall revives his 1992 production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. A star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Now previewing, 7.45pm, Sat, 3pm Opens Jan 17. (S)

■ **THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories. A refreshing relief from Disney cuteness
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight, 7pm, Sat, 2.30, 7pm (S)

■ **MACBETH** Paul Higgins in the title role of English Touring Theatre's successful production. Stephen Unwin directs
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Now previewing, 7.30pm Opens Jan 15, 7pm. (S)

◪ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN** Diana Rigg sturdily moving in the title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight, 7.15pm, Sat, 2pm and 7.15pm (S)

◪ **SALTIMBANCO** Admired by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil finally arrives here. Forty-five performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no animals
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tue-Sun, 7.45pm, mats Sat and Sun, 2.30pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15) Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. Directed by Carl Franklin from Walter Mosley's novel
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY (15) Widowed father and son tussle over life and love. Faded Irish blarney with Albert Finney and US import Matt Keeslar. Directed by Peter Yates
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148), **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353), **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18) Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything. Hollow tale of hollow people, brazenly presented by director Paul Verhoeven. With Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574). **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

THE WAR (12) The children of a Vietnam vet (Kevin Costner) fight their own war after rough-housing locals. Quirky, light drama from Fried Green Tomatoes director Jon Avnet
Empire (0171-437 1234), **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director Chris Noonan
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour and Sean Bean
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little action. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche
Barbican (0171-638 8891), **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742), **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

HEAVY (15) Slow, absorbing American independent film about frustrated lives from writer-director James Mangold. With Shelly Winters, Pruitt Taylor Vince, Liv Tyler, Deborah Harry
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3223) **MGM Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **SEVEN** (18) Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3223) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0171-254 0677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15) Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. Tatty tale with small pleasures. Lasse Hallstrom directs. Dennis Quaid, Robert Duvall, Kyra Sedgwick, Gena Rowlands
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

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Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 1st day Recorded info 0171 439 7438/7 Advance Booking 0171 494 5676. **AFRICA: THE ART OF A CONTINENT. - FINAL WEEK! DAVID HOCKNEY: A DRAWING RETROSPECTIVE - FINAL TWO WEEKS!**

DANCE

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OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight 7.30 **TURANDOT**
Tomor 2.30 & 7.30
THE PEARL FISHERS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Tue 7.00 (First Night)
THE MIDSUMMER MARRIAGE
The Royal Ballet
Wed 7.30 (Last Night) **SWAN LAKE**

THEATRES

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A New Musical
"A stunning score" Sheridan Morley
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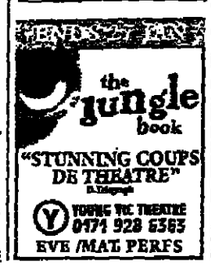
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starring **PHILLIP SCHOFIELD**
FEB 22 - APR 26

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000 Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15
HAYLEY MILLS
"Magnificent" FT
JERRY BEADROVE
"Impeccable" Times
DEAD GUILTY
"Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times



CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454
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THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
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by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**
Directed by **Sam Mendes**
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
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CRITERION 369 1747/344 4444/ 420 0000
JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" D.Mail
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"NO 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7"
100 SEATS AT £10 ON THE DOOR DAILY thr BEFORE PERF

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Starring **RICHARD CALKIN** and **SAMANTHA JANUS**
"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror
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TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE

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Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
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"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out
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Henry Goodman: Aisling O'Sullivan
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Best Comedy Olivier Award
LAST 3 WEEKS!
Eves 7.30, Mat Thu
(Ends Jan only) & Sat 3.00

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DAVID BURKE **ANDREW HAVILL**
Sunny Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A real thrill of terror" S.Times
NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

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"One of the finest performances on the West End stage" What's On
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WINNER OF 10 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre production of Jerry Springer's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail
"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s"ES
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"D.Tel
FINAL LONDON SEASON
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THE PETER HALL COMPANY
Martin Shaw **Anna Carteret**
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OSCAR WILDE'S
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
RED PRICE PREVS NOW!
14 WEEKS ONLY
EXTRA THURS MAT 18 JAN

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee, CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 413 3311/930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BOOKING TO DEC 96
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Apply to Box Office daily for returns

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JIM DALE
RETURNS TO THE WEST END
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail
OLIVER!
2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5045/ cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee)
Michele McAuliffe **Graham Turner** **and Frank Thornton**
HOBSON'S CHOICE
by Harold Brighouse
"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that bursts with laughter" D.Tel
"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT" Sat
Eves 7.30, Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
MUST CLOSE 29 JAN

MERMAID THEATRE 0171 236 2211/344 4444
Roy Marsden in
Robert Louis Stevenson's
TREASURE ISLAND
Pirate classic for treasure! S.Exp
Last Swashbuckling perfs. Ends Sat!

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252. Grps 0171 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Tom 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 **MOTHER COURAGE & HER CHILDREN** Bertolt Brecht in a new version by David Hare
LYTTELTON Tom 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 **ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD** Tom Stoppard
COTTESLOE Tom 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 (LAST PERFS) **CYRANO**
Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jeffrey Verma, rendered into verse by Ranjit Bolt Tom 6pm, **PLATFORM: BARRY HUMPHRIES**

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 494 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6555/312 8034
The Royal National Theatre's
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out
MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES...
UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE" Daily Mail
"A WONDERFUL EVENING"FT
"AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE"LWR
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO OF SEATS AVAIL
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ave Novello Awards
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE
...Brings the audience to its feet, and rightly its approval" D.Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321
"WINNER"
BEST MUSICAL
Evening Standard Award '95
"ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS" D.Express
"JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS" D.Mail
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THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE
Mon-Sat at 7.45
Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444
Sylvia Syms, Henry McGee
Lynda Baron, Trevor Bannister
Ray Cooney, Peter Ellis
Ron Aldridge & Rodney Bewes
RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
FUNNY MONEY
NOMINATED FOR BEST COMEDY
1995 OLIVIER AWARDS
"LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER"D. Exp
"Better than Feydeau...priceless"D. Tel
Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123.
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards '95
"YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT" D.Mail
CRAZY FOR YOU
"IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS GOLDMINE OF A SHOW"S.Times
Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK LAST 7 WEEKS

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee)
344 4444 Groups 420 0200
Cameron Mackintosh presents
MARTIN GUERRE
A New Musical by
BOUBIL & SCHONBERG
FROM 22 MAY 1996

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 bkg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 8.45pm
Sat 6pm & 8.45pm
FINAL PERF. TONIGHT 6.45
SEE LILY SAVAGE IN THE HILARIOUS PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H
THE MUSICAL
"AN ABSOLUTE HOOT"Gdn
Stalls & D.C. £12.50-£24.00, Upper Circle £8.50

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON
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BARBICAN
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Tom't 7.15
THE PIT. SON OF A MAN Tom't 7.15
STRATFORD (01789 295623)
RST: RICHARD III Tom't 7.30
SWAN: FAUST I Today 3.00
FAUST II Tom't 7.30
TOP: THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN Tom't 7.30

SAVOY 0171 836 8888 cc 0171 420 0100 (no bkg fee)
ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS
by **ALAN AYCKBOURN**
"A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel
"will the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
OPENS 29 JAN

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 grps 312 1970 No bkg fee
BELINDA LANG **KEVIN McNALLY**
in Terry Johnson's award winning comedy
DEAD FUNNY
"Blissfully Witty and Wicked" Eve Stand
Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm
Sat mat 5pm & Wed mat 2.30pm
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SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/bkg fee)
RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET
THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY
"deliciously addictive" D.Tel
Mon

Dublin Flyer rises above adversity

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

NEVER doubt a street-fighter with his back to the wall. Circumstances conspired entirely against Dublin Flyer at Wincanton yesterday, but the horse simply powered to victory in the John Bull Chase. Make no mistake, Dublin Flyer presents a formidable barrier to One Man winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Dublin Flyer's dislike of racing right-handed has been well documented, and the portents looked ominous when this habitual front-runner was left many lengths at the start. Nevertheless, he looked in control until an appalling blunder at the final ditch saw Travado, Viking Flagship and Lusty Light engulf him like a rash.

But such adversity brings out the best in him. Woe betide any horse who dares head him, as Egypt Mill Prince discovered in the Mackeson Gold Cup in November. This time Travado threw down the challenge and Dublin Flyer responded with typical brio. He drew seven lengths clear of Nicky Henderson's chaser, with Viking Flagship a disappointing eight lengths further behind.

It was a thoroughly convincing display, punctuated — that one error apart — by some quicksilver fencing. Debate will now rage on Dublin Flyer's ability to be as effective over the 3¼ miles of the Gold Cup, for which Coral offers a best-priced 14-1.

Brendan Powell, who rode the ten-year-old, entertained few doubts. "I can't see any reason why he shouldn't stay. One Man is a good horse but he will have to jump with me down the far side at Cheltenham." That, in a nutshell, is the challenge facing One Man. To witness him engage Dublin Flyer at Cheltenham would be a sight to behold. But the duel, if it materialises too far from home, would surely compromise both horses.

Tim Forster, who has trained Dublin Flyer with a sure hand, can hardly countenance the improvement in his charge. Indeed, the horse looked beaten when falling at the final fence in this race 12 months ago. Yet Lusty Light, the winner on that occasion, trailed home more than 15 lengths back yesterday.

"Last year I thought Martha's Son was two stone in front of Dublin Flyer," Forster said. "This was a fine performance. Brendan [Powell] said the horse was hanging so badly that he could hardly ride him."

Any amount of hard riding would not have stirred Viking Flagship. Richard Dunwoody reported him some way off peak fitness but the two-mile champion chaser's crown now hangs by the slenderest of threads.

Norman Williamson received encouraging news after a visit to his doctor. Subject to favourable X-rays on February 5, Williamson plans to return at the Tote Gold Trophy fixture at Newbury five days later. The jockey has been out of action since breaking his right leg at Sedgefield in October.

Jim Old has withdrawn Mole Board and Collier Bay from The Ladbroke at Leopardstown tomorrow. The former's absence precipitates a minimum 13lb rise in the weights while the latter was quoted 4-1 favourite by the sponsors after his Sandown victory on Saturday.

☐ Peter Easterby is to hand over the reins of his Habton Grange stables, near Malton, to his son, Tim. "Tim will have the licence to run things from February 1, but I haven't handed in my own licence," Easterby said yesterday.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Dublin Flyer leads home Travado in the John Bull Chase at Wincanton yesterday

Treasure Again to plunder prize

ASCOT
BBC2



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: Inchcailloch, fit from the Flat, beat Certainly Strong on their chasing debuts at Kempton and was sent off a short-priced favourite to repeat the feat at Sandown early last month, only to make a uncharacteristic blunder four out. Jeff King's promising chaser is 8lb better off here and will be well backed to gain revenge. However, the winning performance of **Certainly Strong** at Sandown was every bit as good as that of Inchcailloch at Kempton and the likely soft ground today could swing things in her favour. Tothewoods was beaten in the Sandown race when unseating three out and Ground Nut could prove a bigger threat.

3.05: Despite winning five races on the bounce last season with **Percy Smollett**, David Nicholson is hopeful the handicapper has not caught up with his progressive chaser, for whom soft ground and right-handed courses are prerequisites. Although this is his seasonal reappearance, lack of fitness is not usually a problem with runners from Jackdaws Castle. In an open race, with question marks against several runners, he looks a value option. Richard Dunwoody gave Unguided Missile a fine ride to win here a month ago but Gordon Richards's promising chaser is far from foot perfect. Dextra Dove and Edimbourg are others for the short list.

3.35: Killone Abbot will be popular after the way he slogged through the mud to win the Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury. That was over two miles but the breeding of Jim Old's runner suggests this trip should suit. Trickle Lad and Wee Windy are closely matched, but I will take a risk with **Treasure Again**. A leading novice last season, he looks well treated and should relish this ground and trip.

RICHARD EVANS

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.55 Ouaff — 2.35 Certainly Strong
1.30 Mister Oddy — 3.05 EDIMBOURG (nap)
2.05 Chopwell Curtains — 3.35 Trickle Lad

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.35 LUCKY BLUE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.35 Fired Earth.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.55 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £3,859: 2m 4f) (21 runners)

101 11-2156 EXTERIOR PROFILES 35 (F,6) (Exterior Profiles) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 ... C Maude 84
102 444-1 HIGH LEARIE 42 (S) (E Harvey) D Sherwood 6-11-10 ... Mr A Harvey 81
103 1-251 YOUR RISK 23 (F,6) (The Sterling Bears) S Carslake 6-11-5 ... G Upton 74
104 23-F ACT OF FAITH 42 (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 6-11-0 ... C Llewellyn 80
105 5-5 GENERAL SALUTE 46 (Lord Chetwode) G Balding 6-11-0 ... A P McCoy 59
106 0-0 HARRY BOY 36 (Mrs T Brown) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 ... W Marston –
107 0/654 JIMMY-JADE 23 (S Chamberlain) A Chamberlain 7-11-0 ... Mr J Jukes 68
108 0-12 KNIGHTSBRIDGE SCOT 48 (F) (Knightsbridge BC) N Babbage 5-11-0 ... S McNeill –
109 6 MEI 38 (Mrs R Hoskins) R Buckler 5-11-0 ... B Powell –
110 0/41- MENDIP PRINCE 2388 (S) (Three Ply Racing) P Hobbs 6-11-0 ... A Maguire –
111 4P PHILATELIC 45 (P De Wilde) R Alner 5-11-0 ... Mr P Henley (5) 58
112 3 QUAFF 58 (A Wellan) J Gifford 6-11-0 ... P Hide 81
113 06-2 SIR LEONARD 57 (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 6-11-0 ... J Osborne 87
114 66-40 SPACEAGE GOLD B (Spaceage Plastics Ltd) J Old 7-11-0 ... T Grantham 69
115 42 STEEL MOSS 51 (T Portillo) C Barwell 7-11-0 ... B Clifford –
116 1- WARFIELD LAD 433 (S) (Mrs D Todd) K Bailey 7-11-0 ... R Dunwoody –
117 31/52-2 WHATTABOB 28 (S) (Mrs M Turner) N Henderson 7-11-0 ... Mr A Fitzgerald (3) –
118 3 WHIRLY 42 (Pull-mell Partners) R Alner 7-11-0 ... R Johnson (3) 75
119 23 YOUBETTERBELIEVET 58 (Ushaws Bloodstock) C Brooks 7-11-0 ... G Bradley –
120 30-0 ZHU JIANG 195 (E Wilkinson) R Stronge 5-11-0 ... D Leahy –
121 00-3 TELLICHERRY 46 (Solid State Supplies) Miss H Knight 7-10-9 ... J F Titley 86

BETTING: 7-2 Whattabob, 5-2 Exterior Profiles, 5-1 Quaff, 8-1 Sir Leonard, Warfield Lad, 10-1 High Learie, Mendip Prince, 12-1 Act Of Faith, Your Risk, 14-1 Knightsbridge Scot, 16-1 others.

1995: KING LUCIFER 6-11-5 A Maguire (7-1) D Nicholson 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

EXTERIOR PROFILES best effort this term beat Jet Boys 10l at 9-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good) with QUAFF (10lb better off) 1¼l 3rd and JIMMY-JADE (10lb better off) 12½l 5th. MENDIP PRINCE beat Lottery Ticket 1¼l in 18-runner National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft) with HIGH LEARIE (10lb worse off) 10l 4th. SIR LEONARD 4l 2nd of 16 to Iarsha in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) STEEL MOSS 15l 2nd of 12 to Dictum in National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). WARFIELD LAD beat Irene's Pet 1l in 20-runner National Hunt Flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft) WHATTABOB 1½l 2nd of 13 to Crack On on maiden hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). YOUBETTERBELIEVET ½l 2nd of 20 to Tudor Buck in National Hunt Flat race at Newton (2m, good).
Selection: WHATTABOB

1.30 BUCKTAIL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,085: 2m) (8 runners)

201 335-113 NORTHERN SADDLER 32 (D,BF,F,G,S) (R Evans) R Hodges 9-12-0 R Dunwoody 88
202 122211- MISTER ODDY 311 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 10-11-7 ... G Upton 86
203 4U4A-40 TREVAYLOR 7 (B,D,G,S) (G Hoyle) P Hobbs 12-11-3 ... B McCourt –
204 61-2112 THE CARROT MAN 38 (D,BF,F,S) (Mrs J Wintworth) P Wintworth 8-11-2 P Hide 85
205 21UF12 ZAJIRA 32 (D,F,G,S) (F Bush) P Eccles 6-11-1 ... A P McCoy 83
206 1-32211 DEAR DO 24 (D,G,S) (C Edwards) N Henderson 9-10-8 ... Mr A Fitzgerald (3) 84
207 -40-641 LE CHAT NOIR 31 (D,F,G,S) (F Parsons) D Fenton (5) 84
208 363-U24 MANABOUTTHEHOUSE 23 (F Javey) G Thorner 9-10-0 ... L Harvey 82

Long handicap: Manaboutthehouse 9-6

BETTING: 11-4 Dear Do, 4-1 Northern Saddler, 5-1 Mister Oddy, Zajira, 6-1 The Carrot Man, 8-1 others.

1995: KIBREET 8-10-11 A Maguire (11-2) L Cottrell 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORTHERN SADDLER beat Bama Boy 2l in 5-runner handicap chase at Worcester (3m, soft) on penultimate start. MISTER ODDY completed double behind DEAR DO (5lb worse off) 3¾l in 3-runner amateur riders' handicap chase at Leicester (2m 1f, heavy) with NORTHERN SADDLER (9lb worse off) remounted and a distance last. ZAJIRA 11¼l 2nd of 5 to James The First in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 110yd, soft) with NORTHERN SADDLER (6lb better off) 9l 3rd and TREVAYLOR (5lb better off) dist 4th. DEAR DO completed double best Herbert Buchanan 12l in 6-runner handicap chase at Southwell (3m, good). LE CHAT NOIR beat MANABOUTTHEHOUSE (1lb worse off) 1¾l in 7-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good)
Selection: ZAJIRA

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ascot: 1.30 Trevaylor. 2.05 Spikey. Musselburgh: 2.45 Young Steven. Southwell: 1.55 Fret, Tristan's Comet. 3.25 Jersey Belle, Chadleigh Lane, Monkey's Wedding.

2.05 SILVER DOCTOR OPEN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,459: 3m) (17 runners)

301 62-22 YAHMI 49 (W Stort) J Old 6-12-0 ... T Grantham 80
302 2/10 LIVELY KNIGHT 6 (C,G) (A Weller) J Gifford 7-11-7 ... P Hide 86
303 15R113 CHOPWELL CURTAINS 8 (D,F,G) (Durham Draper Ltd) M H Easterby 6-11-4 L Wyer 89
304 2624-1 BUCKET OF GOLD 41 (S) (Mrs F McInnes Skinner) N Gaselee 6-11-2 ... C Llewellyn 92
305 3433-12 STORM NORTH 35 (F) (I Naylor) Miss V Williams 6-10-12 ... R Davis 98
306 513222P KALASADI 6 (B,F) (G Lisson) Miss J Doyle 5-10-12 ... S Curran (3) 93
307 1-24181 TOUR LEADER 36 (D,F,G) (P Jones) R Buckler 7-10-13 ... B Powell 94
308 5452-81 PURBECK CAVALIER 11 (S) (B Curtis) Mrs J Retter 7-10-11 (6ex) ... A P McCoy 95
309 4345-22 BALLYEA BOY 8 (D Barry) D Nicholson 5-10-10 ... A Maguire 95
310 3/2-01 FOXBOW 56 (CD,G) (E & W Robins) O Sherwood 6-10-10 ... J Osborne 88
311 0P-113C YES MAN 24 (D,F) (A Wright) Mrs H Knight 7-10-3 ... J F Titley 91
312 33P-4UP SPIKEY 41 (V,G) (S Powell) J Jenkins 10-10-2 ... D Gallagher –
313 60/R53 TIPPING ALONG 29 (D Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 7-10-1 ... DOUBTFUL 85
314 60/261D OLDHILL WOOD 7 (S) (D Mullen) S Mellor 8-10-1 ... N Mann 94
315 334443 DAWN FLIGHT 24 (B,F) (Mrs C Dare) J Jenkins 7-10-0 ... D Bridgwater 92
316 1P6PP-P SIMON JOSEPH 42 (B,S) (Mrs C McFarlane) T George 9-10-0 ... R Johnson (3) –
317 4000/43- MISS NOSEY OATS 413 (P Matthews) K Burke 8-10-0 ... Mr J Culloty (7) 82

Long handicap: Dawn Flight 9-13, Simon Joseph 9-12, Miss Nosey Oats 9-6

BETTING: 6-1 Bucket Of Gold, 7-1 Chopwell Curtains, Purbeck Cavalier, Yahmi, 8-1 Ballyea Boy, Foxbow, 10-1 Storm North, Yes Man, 12-1 Dawn Flight, Kalasadi, 14-1 others.

1995: ROSINA MAE 6-10-9 R Garritty (7-1) Mrs J Ramsden 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

YAHMI neck 2nd of 12 to Tennessee Twist in novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good) with TOUR LEADER (27lb better off) 7l¼ 6th. CHOPWELL CURTAINS 29¼l 3rd of 11 to What's Your Story in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f, good to soft). BUCKET OF GOLD beat BALLYEA BOY (6lb better off) 3l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). STORM NORTH 3½l 2nd of 18 to Campaign in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to firm). PURBECK CAVALIER beat Lyphard's Fable 6l in 18-runner novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft) BALLYEA BOY 7l 2nd of 20 to Take The Buckskin in novice hurdle at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good to soft) FOXBOW beat Graphic Designer 10l in 9-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good). YES MAN short-head 2nd of 12 to Father O'Brien in handicap hurdle at Southwell (3m 110yd, good) with DAWN FLIGHT (3lb better off) 2½l 3rd.
Selection: FOXBOW

2.35 PML LIGHTNING NOVICES CHASE
(Grade II: £15,775: 2m) (6 runners) BBC2

401 2210-21 CERTAINLY STRONG 41 (D,G,S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 6-11-7 ... A Maguire 95
402 P0-6431 FIERCE 29 (D,F,G,S) (P Piper) J Jenkins 8-11-4 ... J Osborne 78
403 344-F23 GROUND NUT 30 (S) (Mrs R Hackins) R Buckler 6-11-4 ... B Powell 89
404 1254-14 INCHCAILLOCH 41 (D,BF,G,S) (F Carter) J King 7-11-4 ... G Upton 93
405 245323/ SUPER COIN 587 (F,S) (G Brookes) R Lee 8-11-4 ... P McLoughlin –
406 F44/P-1U TOTHEWOODS 41 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Scott) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-4 ... C Llewellyn 84

BETTING: 6-4 Certainly Strong, 7-4 Inchcailloch, 9-2 Tothewoods, 8-1 Ground Nut, 14-1 Fierce, 25-1 Super Coin.

1995: GALES CAVALIER 7-11-12 M Dwyer (13-8 fav) D Gandolfo 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

CERTAINLY STRONG beat Captain Khedive 7l in grade II Henry VIII Novice Chase at Sandown (2m, good) with INCHCAILLOCH (8lb better off) 17l 4th and TOTHEWOODS (8lb better off) unseated 4 out. GROUND NUT 14l 3rd of 13 to Nemuro in novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good). INCHCAILLOCH beat CERTAINLY STRONG (8lb worse off) 1l in 9-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, good) on penultimate start, with GROUND NUT 16l 3 out. TOTHEWOODS beat Persian Tactics 10l in novice chase at Haydock (2m, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: CERTAINLY STRONG

3.05 HAIRY MARY HANDICAP CHASE
(£12,346: 3m 110yd) (12 runners) BBC2

501 P13U0-6 WHISPERING STEEL 62 (CD,G,S) (J Gillow) K Bailey 10-11-10 ... J Osborne 95
502 5P1-121 UNGUIDED MISSILE 27 (CD,F,G) (D Harrison) S Richards 8-11-8 ... R Dunwoody 95
503 1300-33 GARRISON SAVANNAH 34 (D,G,S) (Autoleur Eng) Mrs J Pitman 13-11-4 W Marston 93
504 111112- PERCY SMOLLETT 290 (D,F,G,S) (R Murray) D Nicholson 8-10-13 ... A Maguire 93
505 UU/36P-3 MERE CLASS 42 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Ellsbury) C Brooks 10-10-12 ... G Bradley 85
506 11-1111 DEXTRA DOVE 52 (F,G,S) (Dextra Lighting Systems) S Earle 10-10-9 ... C Maude 92
507 11U431-4 WELL BRIEFED 34 (C,D,F,G,S) (P James) R Buckler 9-10-5 ... B Powell 93
508 3U055P- CAPABILITY BROWN 321 (CD,F,G,S) (D Lewis) J Bradley 9-10-4 ... R Johnson (3) 89
509 P155-1U YORKSHIRE GALE 27 (D,G,S) (B Hayton) J Gifford 10-10-4 ... A P McCoy 94
510 P/1121-2 EDIMBOURG 35 (F,G,S) (Mrs I Winton) Miss H Knight 10-10-3 ... J F Titley 93
511 512-313 RUN UP THE FLAG 35 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 9-10-1 ... P Hide 96
512 32P2-P2 COKENNY BOY 65 (CD,F,G,S) (S Hemsley) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-0 ... R Farrant 83

Long handicap: Cokenny Boy 9-13

BETTING: 7-2 Unguided Missile, 9-2 Dextra Dove, 7-1 Edimbourg, Percy Smollett, Yorkshire Gale, 8-1 Run Up The Flag, Well Briefed, 10-1 Mere Class, 14-1 Cokenny Boy, 16-1 Whispering Steel, 25-1 others

1995: WHISPERING STEEL 9-11-2 N Williamson (6-4 fav) K Bailey 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

UNGUIDED MISSILE beat Rough Quest neck in 9-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) with YORKSHIRE GALE (10lb worse off) unseated rider 2nd. PERCY SMOLLETT beat Taurean Prince 4l in 11-runner handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. MERE CLASS 3l 3rd of 9 to Willsford in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good). DEXTRA DOVE beat Tug Of Peace 5l in 7-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) YORKSHIRE GALE beat EDIMBOURG (1lb better off) 2½l in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with EDIMBOURG (7lb better off) 3l 3rd. RUN UP THE FLAG beat Auto Pilot 1¼l in handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start, with GARRISON SAVANNAH (2lb better off) 4l 3rd. COKENNY BOY 4l 2nd of 4 to Act Of Parliament in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good to firm)
Selection: UNGUIDED MISSILE (nap)

3.35 ROSLING KING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£11,040: 3m) (14 runners) BBC2

601 54P4-B5 SWEET GLOW 27 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Fairbrother) M Pipe 9-11-10 ... D Bowmers (7) 91
602 41011-1 KILLONE ABBOT 48 (G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Old 7-11-10 ... J Osborne 93
603 226P-43 TOP SPIN 27 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 7-11-8 ... A Maguire 98
604 23UD-3P ISLAND JEWEL 27 (D,S) (M Cartwright) J Bosley 8-11-5 ... M Bosley 98
605 1FP-250 GILLAN COVE 11 (D,S) (Forum Racing) R Alner 7-11-1 ... Mr P Henley (5) 93
606 1400-53 TRICKLE LAD 35 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Prendergast) F Murphy 7-11-0 ... A P McCoy 93
607 333-112 WEE WINDY 35 (D,F,G,S) (W Gale) J Gifford 7-10-8 ... P Hide 92
608 1112P-5 TREASURE AGAIN 41 (S) (J Gwynne) Mrs M Jones 7-10-8 ... D Byrne 90
609 11/01P-6 RIRED EARTH 43 (F,S) (Mrs J Fanshawe) J Fanshawe 8-10-6 ... R Dunwoody 90
610 132244 JATHIB 35 (D,F,G) (Horses For Courses Rct) D Nicholson 5-10-3 ... R Johnson (3) 94
611 /R/681F- TYRONE BRIDGE 307 (D,S) (P Green) N Wallis 10-10-1 ... Guy Lewis (3) –
612 13/4-451 LUCKY BLUE 11 (S,S) (F Newman) M Thompson 9-10-1 (4ex) ... J F Titley 89
613 5P421-F FEELS LIKE GOLD 48 (S) (Independent Twine Co Ltd) M Pipe 8-10-0 ... D Bridgwater 86
614 44P6-10 ULURU 35 (D,F,G) (P Morgan) C Nash 8-10-0 ... J R Kavanagh 80

Long handicap: Feels Like Gold 9-11, Uluru 9-9.

BETTING: 3-1 Killone Abbot, 11-2 Feels Like Gold, 6-1 Trickle Lad, Wee Windy, 10-1 Island Jewel, Lucky Blue, 14-1 Gillan Cove, Top Spin, Treasure Again, 16-1 Jathib, Sweet Glow, 25-1 others.

1995: CYBORGO 5-12-0 R Dunwoody (4-7 fav) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KILLONE ABBOT beat Mousse Bird 20l in 7-runner grade II Bonusprint Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft). WEE WINDY 1¼l 2nd of 12 to Better Times Ahead in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) with TRICKLE LAD (3lb better off) 1½l 3rd, JATHIB (4lb better off) 2½l 5th. SWEET GLOW (7lb better off) 5l 6th and ULURU (7lb better off) about 31¼l 10th. LUCKY BLUE beat Sahrab 4l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft). FEELS LIKE GOLD beat Red Parade 1¼l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 6f, heavy) on penultimate start.
Selection: ISLAND JEWEL

☐ Tony McCoy, this season's leading National Hunt jockey with 97 winners, sustained a suspected broken right wrist in a fall at Wincanton yesterday. He took a heavy fall from Eastern River in the Corscombe Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

ASCOT: Trainers: G Richards, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; Miss H Knight, 4 from 15, 26.7%, S Sherwood, 4 from 16, 25.0%, O Sherwood, 14 from 57, 24.6%, D Nicholson, 11 from 46, 23.9%; M Pipe, 16 from 73, 21.9%, R Alner 3 14 21.4%. Jockeys: C Maude, 6 winners from 18 rides, 33.3%; J Osborne, 32 from 109, 29.4%, A P McCoy, 9 from 31, 29.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 13 from 72, 18.1%; A Maguire, 14 from 79, 17.7%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 47, 17.0%.

MUSSELBURGH: Trainers: K Bailey, 3 winners from 3 runners, 100.0%; J Pearce, 3 from 6, 50.0%, N Tinkler, 9 from 28, 32.1%; Mrs M Reveley, 13 from 50, 26.0%; C Thornton, 3 from 14, 21.4%, M Hammond, 21 from 99, 21.2%, P Monteith, 10 from 62, 16.1% Jockeys: J McLaughlin, 3 winners from 5 rides, 60.0%; Mr C Bonner, 4 from 13, 30.8%, M Dwyer, 7 from 34, 20.6%, J Callaghan, 8 from 45, 17.8%, P Niven, 9 from 54, 16.7%; D Parker, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: M Ryan, 16 winners from 67 runners, 23.9%, J Banks, 6 from 29, 20.7%, M Johnston, 31 from 166, 18.7%; M Prescott, 18 from 98, 18.4%; J Fitzgerald, 20 from 120, 16.7%, M Bell, 11 from 70, 15.7%. Jockeys: Kimberley Hart, 7 winners from 21 rides, 33.3%, J Weaver, 34 from 188, 18.1%, J Fortune, 17 from 97, 17.5%; D McKeown, 33 from 248, 13.3%; Alex Greaves, 23 from 174, 13.2%; C Teague, 9 from 83, 10.8%

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

12.45 Toujours Riviera. 1.15 Western General. 1.45 Brackenthwaite. 2.15 Amigos. 2.45 Blue Charm. 3.15 Down The Road. 3.45 Livio.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.45 DYEWATER MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,264: 2m) (13 runners)

1 BALATA BAY 458F J Berkett 5-11-9 ... L O'Hara –
2 F0 BOLD AMUSEMENT 34 W Cunningham 6-11-9 ... N Smith 84
3 0-40 CANAAN VALLEY 50 D Roberson 8-11-9 ... J Burke 95
4 600- CLASSICAL CHOICE 224 J Barclay 5-11-9 ... A Thornton –
5 36 DAWN ROCK 25 (B) R McKellar 5-11-9 ... D Parker (3) –
6 -112 DIRECT ROUTE 25 (F) J Howard Johnson 5-11-9 ... P Carberry –
7 33-6 FLINTLOCK 76 Mrs A Naughton 6-11-3 ... M Foster (5) –
8 MISTER CASUAL 1585F W Reed 7-11-9 ... T Reed –
9 00 SECONDS AWAY 25 J Goldie 5-11-9 ... F Perratt –
10 -545 STASH THE CASH 28 T Dyer 5-11-9 ... A Dobbin 97
11 TOULOURS RIVIERA 29F J Pearce 6-11-9 ... J McLaughlin –
12 6 UNPREJUDICE 38 M Hammond 5-11-9 ... Mr C Bonner (3) 98
13 5 ROYAL COMEDIAN 34 B Murray 7-11-4 ... Q Pears 94

7-2 Direct Route, 5-1 Toujours Riviera, 6-1 Royal Comedian, 7-1 Stash The Cash, 8-1 Canaan Valley, Flintlock, Unprejudice 16-1 others

1.15 DYEWATER MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div II: £2,264: 2m) (13)

1 63F BONJOUR 38 C Mann 5-11-9 ... J Railton 98
2 05 JABARDOT 25 D Nolan 5-11-9 ... M Moloney –
3 2 JUBRAN 25 L Dooks 10-11-9 ... P Carberry 87
4 0/5- MARY'S CASE 86F Mr J Goodfellow 5-11-9 ... B Storey –
5 3S MT RUNDLE 27 (BF) K Bailey 7-11-9 ... A Thornton 89
6 P- MUSIC BLITZ 380 Mrs D Thomson 5-11-9 ... L O'Hara –
7 4 ROBSERA 34 J Quinn 5-11-9 ... M Dwyer 88
8 WESTERN GENERAL 83F Miss M Milligan 5-11-9 ... R Guest –
9 OFP- APPEARANCE MONEY 270 F Murphy 5-11-4 D J Kavanagh (5) –
10 44 COOL STEEL 76 Mrs J Brown 4-10-11 ... E Callaghan (5) 90
11 U FIRST BITE 27 T Dyer 4-10-11 ... A Dobbin –
12 4 MARCHANT MING 27 M Hammond 4-10-11 ... R Garrity 95
13 ROY BOY 215F Mr M Reveley 4-10-11 ... P Niven –

5-2 Roosera, 5-1 Bonjour, 6-1 Mr Rundle, 7-1 Jubran, Marchant Ming, 8-1 Roy Boy, 10-1 Western General 12-1 others.

1.45 LINKS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,532: 2m) (12)

1 2231 BRACKENTHWAITE 25 (CD,G) L Lloyd-James 6-11-11 E Callaghan (5) 93
2 0-00 KALKO 25 (B,D,G,S) J Goldie 7-10-12 ... G Lee (3) (5)
3 -414 KIMBERLEY BOY 8 (D,BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-8 P Niven 95
4 00-5 DREAM START 54 Mrs S Smith 6-10-6 ... R Guest 96
5 -442 FUNNY ROSE 25 P Monteith 6-10-4 ... A Dobbin 93
6 2504 THISONESFORALICE 7 J Goldie 8-10-4 ... F Perratt 97
7 0340 SUNDAY MAIL, TOO 35 Mrs L Perratt 4-10-2 ... A Thornton 94
8 -P20 LAMBSON 41 (G) J Pearce 9-10-2 ... J McLaughlin 98
9 65-0 SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 23 R McKellar 6-10-0 ... D Parker (3) 86
10 0552 HILLTOWN BLUES 7 (D,G,S) T Dyer 7-10-0 ... J Callaghan 96
11 -P35 PERCY PIT 8 H Alexander 7-10-0 ... B Storey 89
12 -006 MISS BREENYARDS 25 J Harding (3) – 8 Harding (3) –

5-2 Kimberley Boy, 7-2 Brackenthwaite, 9-2 Funny Rose, 8-1 Hilltown Blues, 10-1 Thisonesforalice, 14-1 Dream Start, Lambson, 16-1 others.

2.15 HOPESWATER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,241: 2m) (14)

1 0-01 FIVE TO SEVEN 7 (D,G,S) C Thornton 7-11-10 ... A Dobbin (3)
2 PP-P AH JIM LAD 25 (B,G) D Nolan 12-11-4 ... Mr A McPherson –
3 11/6- AMIGOS 307 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-11-4 ... M Dwyer –
4 2F-6 BROUGHPARK AZALEA 38 J Birkett 7-11-4 ... M Moloney 74
5 14-2 CORSTON RACER 63 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-4 ... T Reed 94
6 3-F3 DARK MIDNIGHT 27 D Lamb 7-11-4 ... A Manners (7) –
7 4-38 FLOWING RIVER 7 (F,G) W Burke 10-11-4 ... G Harker 74
8 0-86 GULER-A 28 R Craggs 8-11-4 ... B Storey –
9 6P-8 HIGH ROAD 97 J Howard Johnson 6-11-4 ... P Carberry –
10 16-F KNOW-NO-NO 28 (G) M Hammond 7-11-4 ... P Niven –
11 14P- LUMUMBA DAYS 321 (F,S) M Meade 10-11-4 ... J Railton –
12 5642 NAGOBELIA 36 (F,G,S) J Pearce 8-11-4 ... J McLaughlin –
13 6/60 PREMIER COUNTY 64 J Barclay 10-11-4 ... A Thornton –
14 506P TARO CARD 8 R Woodhouse 5-10-8 ... D J Kavanagh (5) –

6-4 Amigos, 7-2 Five To Seven, 7-1 Lumumba Days, 8-1 Corston Racer, 12-1 Flowing River, 14-1 Know-No-No, 16-1 Broughpark Azalea, 20-1 others

2.45 WHITEWATER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,346: 2m 4f) (15)

1 3P-1 TOPSAWYER 50 (F,G) Miss S Hall 8-11-10 ... K Bentley 91
2 -103 DALLESMAN 56 J Bridger 8-11-9 ... M Moloney 94
3 2P5 LINLATHEN 82 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-8 ... P Niven 95
4 -041 BLUE CHARM 39 (CD,F) Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-6 ... T Reed 94
5 6326 EXPLORE MONDIAL 51 T Dyer 5-11-6 ... J Callaghan 85
6 6-22 TUGRA 8 (BF,F,G) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-5 ... Mr K Whelan (5) 96
7 122P RECLUSE 50 (B,D,F) Miss L Perratt 5-11-5 ... R Guest 97
8 002 FRYUP SATELLITE 28 Mrs J Brown 5-11-3 ... E Callaghan (5) 98
9 003 YOUNG STEVEN 25 (B) W Kemp 5-10-13 ... S McDougall 93
10 B-32 HEDDON HAUGH 51 P Cheesbrough 8-10-9 ... N Supple (5)
11 0-02 IN A MOMENT 28 (B) T Barron 5-10-7 ... M Dwyer 98
12 FOO- CALDER'S GROVE 238 Miss L Perratt 6-10-0 ... A Thornton 96
13 UPP- DON'T TELL JUDY 260 Mrs M Milligan 8-10-0 ... G Cahill (7) 94
14 00-2 MISTER TRICK 50 L Lungo 5-10-0 ... F Perratt 89
15 -P05 MOMENT OF JUSTICE 30 (B) L Lungo 5-10-0 ... L O'Hara –

4-1 Topsawyer, 5-1 Mister Trick, 6-1 Blue Charm, 7-1 Linlathen, Heddon Haugh, 8-1 Tugra, 10-1 Explore Mondial 12-1 others.

3.15 WHITEADDER HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,290: 2m 4f) (9)

1 12-3 DOWN THE ROAD 48 (D,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 9-12-0 P Carberry 95
2 2P-F GOING AROUND 43 (G,S) K Bailey 8-11-13 ... A Thornton –
3 6-F2 PURITAN 25 (C,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 7-11-12 ... A S Smith (5)
4 -3U2 CROSS CANNON 8 (F,G) J Hellens 10-11-9 ... T Reed (5)
5 -353 WAIT YOU THERE 8 (D,F,G,S) H Alexander 11-11-7 G Cahill (7) 99
6 0-12 SHELAS HILLCREST 26 (D,BF,S) N Macon 10-11-2 S Haworth (7) 93
7 0453 RAPID MOVER 25 (B,C,F,G) D Nolan 9-10-13 ... P Niven 93
8 2431 CHARMING GALE 38 (V,C,D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-10 A Watt (7) 95
9 -005 POTATO MAN 23 (D,S) D Lamb 10-10-0 Mr K Whelan (5) 80

3-1 Green Cannon, 7-2 Puritan, 9-2 Charming Gale, 6-1 Down The Road, Rapid Mover, 8-1 Shelias Hillcrest, 10-1 Wait You There, 12-1 others.

3.45 HADDINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,898: 3m) (7)

1 3601 LIVID 27 (F,G,S) L Lungo 5-12-0 ... T Reed (5)
2 -130 PAMPERED GUEST 11 (G) K Bailey 5-11-13 ... A Thornton (5)
3 5P-6 LOMOND MIST 114 (S) J Howard Johnson 5-11-3 P Carberry (5)
4 2S3R KEEP BATTLING 27 (C,BF,G) J Goldie 6-10-8 ... F Perratt (5)
5 6-60 D'ARBLAY STREET 2 (B,S) W Kemp 7-10-4 ... S McDougall (5)
6 56P NATIVE CROWN 83 (D,F,S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-0 A Watt (7)
7 4250 EXEMPLAR 7 (F) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0 ... R Guest (5)

4-6 Livid, 5-1 Keep Battling, 6-1 Pampered Guest, 10-1 Lomond Mist, Exemplar, 20-1 Native Crown, 33-1 D'Arblay Street.

☐ Edinburgh, the oldest racecourse in Scotland, has been renamed Musselburgh. The town, seven miles south of the capital, has housed the racetrack since 1816 and the change of name will help to promote its local identity.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.30 Beaumont. 12.55 Stand Tall. 1.20 Calder King. 1.55 Rose Of Glenn. 2.25 Ser

Why coming sixth is a champagne moment at Punchestown



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Last Tuesday afternoon, the clerk of the course at Plumpton held an inspection and announced that the track was waterlogged. As a consequence, Wednesday's meeting was abandoned, which grieved me, for I had intended to go. Plumpton is an agreeable place; the train from Victoria drops you at the door and since they bulldozed the hill behind which the horses disappeared before they, or possibly some other horses, came back into sight, it has provided good sport.

So on Wednesday I went to Punchestown. My eldest daughter attended a funeral in Wakefield. She had to take her place by 11.30am and, as there are no bargain fares at that time of day, the return train journey cost £93.

I flew to Dublin from Gatwick for £68 return and could have flown there from Stansted for £48. It is the new thing: no trappings flights. Seat yourself and, if you want tea or coffee, you should have brought a thermos.

Punchestown is 45 minutes out of Dublin, a country course that has a festival week of fierce activity in late April and for the rest of the year holds nicely downbeat meetings at which people reminisce and get into trim. Wednesday was fine and sunny, the going was soft, the crowd modest and the ratio of bookmaker-to-punter seriously intimidating.

Racing is a sport that comes naturally to the Irish. This is horse country, the natives are knowledgable and, when the runners parade, the people stand six-deep around the ring; when the horses canter to the start, the manner in which they go down is assessed with expertise.

There is a totalisator which is straight and honest, as are all totes. Bookmakers, on the other hand, are extrovert and cunning and call you "lad" as in "Come on lads, who's going to take me to the cleaners?" Unlike our Honest Mick, who calls himself a turf accountant and plays it by the book, Honest Pat provides "niche" bets, like who is going to be the best of the unfancied runners: he makes a book without the five horses likely to be involved in the finish. I do not know many places where you can watch your horse come sixth and celebrate the success in champagne (non-vintage Moët is priced at £40 a bottle. Shame on them).

Racing being part of the Irish way of life, people at Irish racecourses take these events in their stride, do not make occasions of them, neither dress up or down. If you go racing with your girlfriend, you snog; go with your enemies, you argue; take your parents, persuade them to change their will ... just as you do in life. While you are there, you eat chicken sandwiches and drink Hot Irish — a tot of whiskey, slice of lemon, lump of sugar, clove; the glass filled up with boiling water.

I go to the Punchestown National Hunt Festival every year. It is the Celtic Cheltenham: huge crowds, mammoth bets, six days of *craic* (pronounced crack) — which is a blend of conversation and Guinness and chancing your luck with a hooley to see you through to breakfast.

They like the Brits, are pleased to see us, are warm and tactile and hospitable, and accept our money; they even used to give us 52 of their punts for a £50 note if we made an issue of it. That has changed.

The Tote window has a notice regretting that they do not accept sterling and a counter at the end of the building is manned by one manifesting all the casual charm of John Redwood, who demands 50p for changing a tenner into that number of punts. The flies have eaten the fly paper.

The quality of Wednesday's racing was mediocre: humdrum hurdles, chases that you could take or leave and a National Hunt flat race for those who like to stay to the end and become part of the traffic jam.

I backed Richard Dunwoody's horses. I reckoned that he had paid more than I for the flight across the Irish Sea and that this was with some purpose in mind. Wrong.

Because this is not festival week and too early for American citizens tracing their ancestors, too late for Christmas celebration, the restaurant where I dined was empty, the food the way food is when the chef has no impetus. If the soup had been as hot as the champagne, the champagne as old as the chicken ... that sort of meal. Then brandy at the Manor Inn in Naas, which, in late April, heaves with gregarious humanity; it now boasted three men at the bar and two women whispering in a corner. Right place, wrong time.

Racing in Ireland is an option that should be considered. Unless you are silly enough to indulge in what we call judicious investment and others deem "mug punting", a trip to Punchestown costs less than an outing to a noon funeral in Wakefield.

Keegan has plenty of work to do on Tyneside

BY OLIVER HOLT

IT HAPPENED this time last year, when he sold Andy Cole to Manchester United, and now it is upon him again. Pressure and its icy blast have a habit of descending on Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, in the gloom of January. David Ginola's dismissal in his team's 2-0 defeat at Arsenal on Wednesday night, for elbowing Lee Dixon, and the subsequent Football Association inquiry into the unseemly touchline behaviour of Terry McDermott, mean it is close to crisis-time again.

The FA confirmed yesterday that, although the police will not take any action against McDermott, Keegan's assistant, or Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, for their shoving and finger-pointing in the aftermath of Ginola's dismissal, both men will be asked to submit their versions of events to Lancaster Gate.

The match referee, Gerald Ashby, was also ordered to submit an immediate report on the touchline fracas, based on the evidence of his linesman, Raymond Olivier, who described it as "an aggressive verbal confrontation".

Rioch admitted that he lost his temper after a remark by McDermott, thought to have referred to the Arsenal manager's own combative style during his playing days.

For Newcastle, though, the worst aspect of the ugly scenes that completed a difficult day for English football was that they threw the future of Ginola, who has made a huge impact at St James' Park with his wing play, into doubt.

The flamboyant Frenchman admitted at the weekend that he was lonely in the North East and Keegan spoke openly after Wednesday night's furore of "trying to talk him round", hinting that the player was ready to move on.

There must be something about Frenchmen and January nights in the English capital that just do not mix. Eric Cantona's excursion into the crowd after his sending off at Selhurst Park this time last year effectively scuppered Manchester United's chances of overhauling Blackburn Rovers at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Ginola's aberration and anticipated three-match ban could hamper Newcastle's attempts to maintain the seven-point gap between themselves and Manchester United. Suddenly May seems a long way away.

Of course, there were extentuating circumstances behind Ginola's dismissal, in the 67th minute of the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final. Many Arsenal supporters said they had not witnessed such ferocious booing of a player since Mark Hughes and Paul Ince, then of Manchester United, came in for special treatment in a particularly fraught match at Highbury two years' ago. Ashby compounded matters by booking the Frenchman for diving when he fell under a cynical tackle from Nigel Winterburn.

"When the rules do not protect the gifted players," Keegan said, "then we are in trouble. Ginola was more sinned against than sinner tonight and yet he was the one who was sent off. He is very different to Cantona in some ways, but I think they both have problems playing in English football."

In purely practical terms, too, Ginola's absence will be a heavy blow to Newcastle. Their huge squad has been pared down by the recent sales of players such as Ruel Fox and Scott Sellars and the injury to Keith Gillespie. With Ginola gone, too, suddenly there is a dearth of wide players to supply the ammunition for Les Ferdinand.

If there is any consolation for Newcastle supporters in all of this, it is that Keegan took pains to remove himself from talk of the succession to Terry Venables as England managers. "It has got absolutely nothing to do with me," he said. "My place is at Newcastle and, judging by the way we have played in the last few matches, we have got a lot of work to do."

☐ Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, will announce the club record signing of Don Hutchison, from West Ham United, for £1.2 million this morning.

SEMI-FINALS

Arsenal v Aston Villa
Norwich or Birmingham v Leeds
First legs to be played on February 11 and 14; second legs on February 21 and 25

MARTIN BEDDALL



Yuran, front, can see no problems after signing for Millwall, while Kulkov sees driving on the left as his biggest worry

Millwall's Russian revolution leaves comrades lost for words

Russell Kempson travels to the New Den to meet the first division's latest imports

It was not quite a cloak-and-dagger operation, masterminded by stony-faced men in heavy coats; it was not quite a proper press conference, with the subjects waxing lyrically and lucidly about their hopes for the future. When east met west yesterday, when Millwall introduced Sergei Yuran and Vasili Kulkov to the assembled media, there was little to be said. The Russians may be coming, indeed have arrived, but they do not speak a word of English.

Instead, the thoughts of Yuran, 26, and Kulkov, 29, were heard via the voice of Elena Sidwell, interpreter, confidante, football broker and all-round Mrs Fixit. It was her diplomacy, and the negotiating skills of the New York-based sports agency she works for, that arranged for the Russia internationals to trade in Spartak Moscow for south-east London.

Such a glamorous and globe-trotting life Sidwell leads. Last Friday, to the New Den in Bermondsey, to announce the signings: this week, the Millwall training ground at the former Midland Bank sports club in Bromley, to unveil the new boys; next week, Colombia, to set up another deal.

Yet only two hours' earlier, Millwall's proudest moment almost foundered because of last-minute nerves. "The lads were not keen to do this," Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, said. "It is all a bit embarrassing for them. They just want to play football, but they eventually agreed."

So ... did Yuran, a striker, or Kulkov, a defender, expect any hitches as they attempt to settle in this country? "I like London," Sidwell said that Yuran said. "My main task is to play and I can't see any problems. Millwall is a promising club for the future; if they go up to the premier league, we will go with them. That is why we came here. They made us a specific offer."

The financial carrot, reputedly dangling in the region of £5,000 a week until their loan spell expires at the end of the season, was equally enticing to Kulkov. "My main concern is I must learn to drive on a different side of the road," Sidwell revealed that Kulkov joked. "Once I get used to that, there will be no problems."

Yuran and Kulkov will play in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division match against Port Vale at the New Den on Saturday, when the Millwall supporters, not usually noted for their tolerance, will have a first chance to discreetly suggest that perhaps Vasili should concentrate a bit more or that Sergei ought to be a little sharper with his finishing.

"They've got nothing to prove to me," McCarthy said. "They just want to prove they can play in England. We've eased them in gently this week and they've been fine."

On pedigrees, they should be fine. Yuran has made 154 appearances, scoring 59 goals, for Dynamo Kiev, Benfica, FC Porto and Spartak. He has played in 29 international matches, scoring eight goals, and should play for Russia in the European championship finals. "He will light up the place," Bobby Robson, the Porto manager, said.

Kulkov has made 45 international appearances, played alongside Yuran at Benfica, Porto and Spartak and is also likely to feature in Russia's European programme. "He reads the game very well," Robson said. Hopefully, for Millwall's sake, much better than he talks it.

Hamed floored by hand operation

NASEEM HAMED had keyhole surgery in a London clinic yesterday after pulling out of the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship for the second time. Instead of promoting his contest with Arnulfo Castillo, of Mexico, at a Mayfair hotel, the 21-year-old from Sheffield was having an operation to repair the right hand he damaged when winning the title against Steve Robinson, of Wales.

The injury caused the postponement of the original bout with Castillo in December. Now, a recurrence has forced Hamed to withdraw from the rescheduled date of February 10 at the London Arena. Frank Warren, the promoter, said: "It is a worry. Three bones are fused together and need to be separated, but the doctor says it is not career-threatening and we are hoping he could be back in the ring in a month or so. 'Naz' could have had cortisone injections, but the problem needs to be sorted out."

King is checked

SWIMMING: Jaime King, of Britain, finished second as Han Xue, of China broke her own world record in the women's 50 metre breaststroke in a World Cup series event in Peking yesterday. Han Xue clocked 30.98sec, with King touching home in 32.06sec. Suki Brownsdon, 30, the City of Coventry breaststroker who is aiming to become the first British swimmer to compete in five Olympic Games, has been recalled to the England squad after a four-year absence. Brownsdon retired from international competition after the 1992 Games, but resumed serious training last year.

Blundell's hopes go west

MOTOR RACING: Mark Blundell, of Britain, saw his chances of continuing his Formula One career virtually disappear yesterday when Tyrrell Yamaha confirmed that Ukyo Katayama would partner Mika Salo, of Finland, in their cars this season. Blundell, who was beaten to the vacant position at Sauber-Ford by Johnny Herbert, his compatriot, is likely to turn his attention towards IndyCar racing in the United States, having already worked with the PacWest team. Katayama, of Japan, has been with Tyrrell for three years, where he attracts his own sponsorship package to a team powered by Japanese engines.

Bond's defence breached

BOWLS: Ian Bond, England's youngest national indoor singles champion, will not be defending his title in April after he was beaten 21-14 in the Devon qualifying event yesterday by John Evans, a former international. Bond, 21, who has suffered a series of misfortunes since winning the event, had to pull out of the national outdoor championships at Worthing in August, when he was temporarily paralysed by a mysterious illness. He failed to impress the England selectors in the senior indoor trial last week, but will be skipping for the England juniors against the Wales Under-25 side at Portsmouth on Sunday.

Johnson Miami bound

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Jimmy Johnson is expected to be named coach of the Miami Dolphins, succeeding Don Shula, who has retired. Johnson coached the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl triumphs before leaving two years ago after falling out with the team's owner, Jerry Jones. Wayne Huizenga, the Dolphins owner, had a five-hour meeting with Johnson, who has also had talks with Tampa Bay about their coaching vacancy earlier this week. Johnson coached the University of Miami for five seasons and is a strong favourite among supporters for the job with the Dolphins.

Champions on new track

CYCLING: Rob Hayles and Russell Williams, the British Madison track champions, have signed for Team Ambrosia, joining a four-man team of road specialists that was announced last week. Hayles, who turned professional 12 months ago, was the most influential rider for London in the opening round of the five-cities track league at Manchester last weekend, with three victories, and will compete again tomorrow in the next stage of the five-week series. He will use early-season road races as preparation for his attempt to gain a place in the Great Britain squad for the 4,000 metres pursuit at the Olympic Games.

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Cross country draws strong fields

Olympic appeal to attract mudlarks to South Africa

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE gate to the coming world cross country championships in South Africa will be partially opened this weekend, offering a reminder that, if you throw enough mud, some will stick — in which case, it is time that the British Athletic Federation (BAF) took a bath to wash away the criticism.

For the leading ten senior men and six senior women in the Reebok United Kingdom inter-counties championships at Luton tomorrow, direct qualification into the British trials for the world championships is guaranteed. The same applies to the first six junior men and junior women.

There has been plenty to cheer so far this winter: British team medals in the European championships, Paula Radcliffe's victories in world cross challenge races at Durham and Mallusk, Andrew Pearson's European bronze medal and second place in Durham, Chris Sweeney's second in Mallusk. More so than at any time since 1992, when the senior men took team bronze medals and Radcliffe won the junior title, there is hope that Great Britain can play a prominent role in the world championships.

Radcliffe and Pearson are showing their best winter form. For the first time, Rob Denmark and Paul Evans, respectively Britain's best 5,000 and 10,000 metres runners, will be available; on a fast course in Stellenbosch, their presence is as important as that of Pearson.

Still, though, the runners and coaches say that the BAF does next to nothing for cross country and the recent wasted opportunity to give most of the potential team a chance to sample the course to be used for the trials underlines the point.

The European championships were held in Northumberland. The trials for the world championships will be in Northumberland. Yet the BAF did not announce the venue — Ashington — until yesterday because it had left arrangements in the hands of Nova International, to whom the BAF has effectively abdicated responsibility for cross country in Britain. For Nova, cross country is business and that means keeping sponsors happy, hence the delay.

"It would have been an ideal opportunity to take the British team out to the course, so they are training with it mind," David Clarke, the men's team manager, said. Frustrated by lack of support from above, Clarke has made progress in his first year as manager. For a start, he keeps in touch with the athletes.



Denmark: ready to run

"As an athlete, I would get a letter once a year." he said. "You need to do more than that. The element of positiveness around at the moment may be why they are responding the way they are. They actually feel that somebody is interested in them."

For too long, Britain has gone to the world championships without its best men, but Clarke does not expect that crack to appear this time. "Almost everybody wants to run in South Africa," he said.

Brendan Foster, the former European 5,000 metres champion, has convinced Denmark that he is harming his chances of greater success on the track each summer by not having a competitive cross country season. Foster points to a list of Africans who have followed success in the world cross country championships with storming performances on the track and Clarke agrees that cross country is fundamental to good summer results. There has been a notable surge in the number of track men running cross country this winter.

"South Africa is a stepping stone for the Olympic Games," Clarke said, though he added, ruefully, "so the funding should be there." He is disappointed that the federation has failed to find money, either direct or through sponsorship, for team preparation in warmer climes.

There are signs that the BAF cross country commission may be prepared to give up on any significant help from the federation management board and, by starting a British Cross Cup, provide better racing opportunities in Britain and, perhaps, funding from a sponsor.

Answering criticism that the federation does too little for cross country, Matt Frazer, the BAF secretary, said that it was "a legitimate claim as people see it", but he pointed to more athletes being sent for experience in small teams abroad and development of juniors through BAF-funded squad weekends.

Frazer does not envisage any significant changes. "After all," he said, "part of the attraction for people like me is that it is the least commercial part of the sport."

BAF secures £2m deal

THE British Athletic Federation (BAF) cut out the middleman and announced its first self-arranged title sponsorship yesterday (David Powell writes). Securicor will back the Olympic trials and grand prix meeting at Crystal Palace this year in a deal negotiated by Barry Snellgrove, the BAF commercial director, rather than by Alan Pascoe Associates (APA), its marketing agency since 1985.

The sponsorship will be worth £2 million if it runs the full three years; initially for two years, there is an option on 1998. Under its arrangement, APA is entitled to a percentage. However, it may be waived, in which case the BAF will see more money than under its previous sponsorship. The adverse publicity surrounding Colin Jackson and Linford Christie is thought to have contributed towards the decision by KP Foods not to renew.

GLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT



Rusedski hits a backhand during his quarter-final victory over Draper in Sydney

Rusedski maintains progress

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREG RUSEDSKI continued his impressive build-up to the Australian Open next week by reaching the semi-finals of the Peters International tournament in Sydney yesterday. Rusedski, the British No 1, overcame Scott Draper, of Australia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in the quarter-finals.

Rusedski, who is unseeded in the tournament, was joined in the last four by Goran Ivanisevic, the top seed, who beat Mark Woodforde 6-4, 7-5. Ivanisevic declared his intent by breaking Woodforde in the opening game and winning three service games to love in the first set.

In the women's singles, Monica Seles continued her rehabilitation when she beat the powerful Mariaan de Swardt, of South Africa, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals. She has not played in a tournament since the US Open last year.

Three British players who were attempting to book their places in the men's singles draw at the Australian Open fell at the first hurdle of the qualifying competition in Melbourne yesterday. Andrew Richardson, Danny Sapsford and Nick Baglin all went out in the opening round: Richardson, from Lincolnshire, lost 6-3, 6-2 to Steve Campbell, of the United States; Sapsford, from Weybridge, was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Diego Nargiso, of Italy; and Baglin, from Macclesfield, went down 7-6, 6-3 to Takao Suzuki, of Japan.

Clare Wood, Britain's No 1 woman player from Brighton, starts her singles qualifying campaign today. Rusedski and Tim Henman go straight into the main draw of the men's competition.

Chris Wilkinson, from Southampton, who elected not to play in the Australian Open qualifying event, retired suffering from the effects of dehydration during his match against Paul Haarhuis, the top seed, in the Indonesian Open in Jakarta yesterday. Haarhuis was leading 6-1, 3-0 at the time.

Pete Sampras, the world No 1 from the United States, whose build-up to the Australian Open has been hampered by illness, will play Boris Becker in an exhibition match in Melbourne today.

SPORTS LETTERS

RFU must support amateurs

From Mr John Jacobsen

Sir, The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has understandably been concentrating on the assimilation of professional rugby into a formerly totally amateur game. In formulating the structure and control of professional rugby, the RFU is in danger of killing the amateur game at the higher levels.

The RFU has a prime responsibility to maintain the standard of amateur rugby and avoid the situation where gifted players are obliged to become professionals if they wish to play the game at the highest level. Young men with a career ahead of them should not be obliged to prejudice that career by taking on contracted rugby commitments.

The difficulty will be to define amateur status. The definition must be capable of verification in the case of every player claiming to be an amateur. The need is to preserve the current regulations relative to amateurism for those players wishing to be classed as amateurs. In addition, clubs affiliated to the RFU who wish to offer contracts and/or payments to their players would register as open clubs and other clubs (the vast majority) would register as amateur clubs. There would not be a ban on matches between open and amateur clubs, nor on amateur players playing for open clubs, though they would lose their eligibility for amateur representative rugby.

The important condition is that the clubs registered as amateur would abide by the present regulations of the RFU, with scrutiny of accounts to ensure that funds are not used to pay players. Only players registered with amateur clubs would be eligible for representative amateur teams.

The support for amateur rugby is undoubtedly strong and would be maintained at a high level by a programme of representative matches confined to registered amateur players. The obvious vehicle for such a tournament is the county championship, which embodies still the spirit of amateur sport and is unlikely to receive support from open clubs and professional players.

It is of prime importance for the health of amateur rugby that internationals between the home countries should continue to be played at the national stadiums. The RFU has a duty to make Twickenham available to amateur players as well as the new professionals. Such is the ethos of amateur rugby union football that an amateur international match between England and Wales will continue to fill the stands if the RFU gives the amateur game the support it deserves.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JACOBSEN,
18 Christchurch Street, SW3.

Replay justice

From Mr A. Charlton

Sir, The recent Test series in South Africa confirms that the standing umpires should automatically consult the third umpire to adjudicate on all appeals by the fielding side other than the most obvious.

In most cases, it is a matter of fact whether a batsman is out or not and the ruling should not be left to the instant judgment of the field umpires when evidence from the television replay is immediately available to the third umpire.

Serious errors of instant judgments not only alter the course of the game, but cause unnecessary ire to players and spectators alike. If doubts remain in spite of the camera evidence, then the batsman gets the benefit as before.

The sanctity of umpires, which appears to cause concern in some quarters, is upheld: the adjudicator is a third umpire, with the advantage of deliberating from the slow-motion evidence and thus showing that justice is seen to be done.

Yours faithfully,
A. CHARLTON,
45 St John's Avenue,
Hebburn, Tyne and Wear.

Swing to right

From Mr Robert J. K. Owens

Sir, I so much agree with the comments of Mr Bruce Cowles (January 5) concerning the lack of basic skills by English batsmen. However, there is another important point about technique.

The preliminary to every stroke, whether defensive or attacking, is the lifting of the bat. If it is not lifted straight, it will not come down straight and an angled bat has less chance of hitting the ball cleanly. The lifted bat pointing towards the slips is so often seen clearly on the telvision screen. This is caused by too much right hand in the lift.

A good way to get it correct is to practise swinging the bat with the left hand only, turning the wrist in the process. The right hand produces the punch on the downward stroke. Do our coaches give attention to this?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT OWENS,
Wheatsheaf Lodge,
Corton Denham,
Sherborne, Dorset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

Harris will test the progress of Davis

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

JAMIE DAVIS, a gangling 23-year-old from Southgate, in north London, has already had the best week of his squash career.

He spent two hard days qualifying for the opening round of the QM national championships at Edgbaston Priory in Birmingham, needing nearly two hours to overcome Eric McAlpine, of Surrey, in the qualifying final, and yesterday managed his best win so far, reaching 20 places up the senior England ranking list to defeat Tim Garner, the England No 13, 9-6, 9-3, 9-2 in 67 minutes. Today, he meets the much-fancied No 2 seed, Del Harris, of Essex, in the second round.

"Harris was the star of British squash when I was coming through the junior county ranks," Davis said. "To meet him in the nationals is quite a moment for me."

By yesterday's form, though, the moment may not last too long. Davis has featured in junior events around Hertfordshire and Middlesex for years and been noticed, here and there, on a national league level. Harris, however, a former world junior champion, has returned to devastating form. He needed just 29 minutes to remove Paul Blanksby, of Nottingham, another qualifier, 9-0, 9-1, 9-6, yesterday.

Success against Davis and again in a probable quarter-final against Paul Johnson, of Kent, tomorrow, should take Harris to a semi-final on Sunday against Mark Chaloner, of Lincoln.

In the women's first round, Cassandra Jackman, the No 1 seed from Norfolk, beat Gayle Kerrison, of Sussex, in 13 minutes, while Fiona Geaves, the defending champion, took just four minutes more to defeat Sue Littler, of Hertfordshire.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 113 Sacramento 104, New Jersey 92 New York 79; Washington 98 Philadelphia 93; Chicago 113 Seattle 87; San Antonio 92 Cleveland 86; Portland 90 Miami 89; Denver 91 Vancouver 85

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bullets 89 Thames Valley Tigers 77; Worthing Bears 108 Leicester Riders 86.

EUROPEAN CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final sedes: Group B: Penathinaikos (Gr) 74 Barcelona (Sp) 95, Benfica (Por) 98 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 90.

CRESTA RUN

ESCALANTE CUP: 1, C Mumenthaler (Switz) 2min 03.26sec, 2, C Kopp (Switz) 2:04.03; 3, S Riegger (Ger) 2:04.67.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-finals: Arsenal 2 Newcastle United 0; Aston Villa 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0; Leeds United 2 Reading 1, Norwich City 1 Birmingham City 1.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Stockport County 1 Bradford City 2; Swindon Town 3 Swansea City 0

SPALDING CUP: Second round: Gateshead 4 Halifax 0

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Heart of Midlothian 4 Motherwell 0 Second division: Queen of the South 3 Stenhousemuir 3, Stranraer 0 Berwick 3 Third division: Livingston 3 Queen's Park 1; Ross County 0 Arbroath 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round: Altreton 2 Boston 2. Unifilla Cup: Second round replay: Farsley Celtic 1 Lancaster 3.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale 0 Cwmbran 1, Portmadog 2 Holywell 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 1 Wimbledon 2; Crystal Palace 2 Charlton Athletic 2. Second division: Cardiff 2 Bournemouth 0; Torquay 1 Cheltenham 1.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash Utd 1 Hartley Wintney 0

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Notts County 0 Sheffield Wednesday 3, Oldham 3 West Bromwich 2, Blackburn 3 Birmingham City 0 Second division: Blackpool 0 York 3; Huddersfield 5 Mansfield 1; Middlesbrough 1 Burnley 2, Port Vale 1 Preston 1, Rotherham 1 Hull 0. Third division: Bury 3 Chester 0 Chesterfield 2 Shrewsbury 2; Darlington 4 Scunthorpe 2; Scarborough 3 Doncaster 1, Wigan 0 Carlisle 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: Third round: Buckingham Town 1 Nuneaton Borough 3, Newport AFC 1 Wateroovile 0.

ICIS LEAGUE: Third division: Harlow 2 Wingate and Finchley 0

JEWSON LEAGUE: First division: Bury Town 0 Whitton United 1, Ipswich Wanderers 1 Gorleston 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 1 Montpellier 0, Bastia 0 St Etienne 0, Bordeaux 2 Guingamp 0; Lille 0 Cannes 2; Lyons 0 Lens 0; Metz 2 Le Havre 1; Paris Saint-Germain 1 Gueugnon 1, Rennes 0 Strasbourg 0

PORTUGUESE CUP: Fifth round: FC Porto 0 União Lamas 0 (aet), Elves 0 Vitória Guimarães 1 (aet); Farense 2 Felrense 2; Estoril 1 União Leiria 1; Setubal 1 Olhanense 2; Aves 1 Vila Real 2; Lamego 2 Cass Pia 1, Penafiel 6 Loa 0, Rio Ave 0 Campomaiense 1; Portomonense 2 Leca 1.

SPANISH CUP: Third round, first legs: Hercules: Alicante 0 Barcelona 0; Numancia 2 Sporting Gijon 1, Sevilla 2 Compostella 1, Deportivo La Coruña 1 Tenerife 1, Athletic Bilbao 2 Real Zaragoza 3; Celta Vigo 1 Valencia 1.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP (at Anaheim, California): Group B: Canada 3 Honduras 1 Group C: El Salvador 3 Trinidad and Tobago 2.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round proper: Ipswich Town 2 Middlesbrough 0, Sunderland 1 Manchester United 4.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Film Trophy: Fifth round: Bury 2 East Normumberland 1, Woodhead Cup: Semi-final: Manchester 2 Wigan 1 (aet), Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Merseyside 0 Cheshire 3

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 2 Vancouver 2 (OT), NY Rangers 7 San Jose 4, Toronto 5 Los Angeles 4; Detroit 4 Dallas 0, Winnipeg 4 Buffalo 1; Colorado 4 Florida 4 (OT), Calgary 3 Hartford 2 (OT).

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Durham Wasps 2 Sheffield Steelers 4, Newcastle Warriors 7 Humberside Hawks 6

MOTOR RALLYING

GRANADA TO DAKAR RALLY: Eleventh stage (Tichit to Kiffa): Cars: 1, P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) 8.47.07, 2, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 9'00; 3, P Lartigue (Fr, Citroen) 14.08 Motorcycles: 1, E Orioli (It, Yamaha) 7.36.58, 2, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) at 1'49, 3, A Meoni (It, KTM) 18'19. Overall positions: Cars: 1, Lartigue 51.20'15; 2, Philippe Wambergue (Fr, Citroen) at 1'22'58, 3, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 1'42'34. Motorcycles: 1, Orioli 56'53.38; 2, Arcarons at 44'23, 3, D Troli (It, Cagiva) 3'39'11

REAL TENNIS

LEAMINGTON: British fathers and sons championship. Semi-finals: D and J Male bt G and G Baker 8-2; J and M Ward bt G and N Baker 8-5. Handicap championship. Final: D and J Male bt A and C Wilson 6-4.

RIFLE SHOOTING

TRENTHAM: New Zealand championships: Queen's prize (300 yards), 1 equal, C Mallett (LMRA) and G Ballinger (NZ) 50 (9bs. Other British: N Ball 50.8, N Brasier 50.5, J Scoble 50.3. Armada Cup (300 yards aggregate), 1, K Meade (NZ) 100.16, 5 Ball 100.14. 800 yards belt series: equal 1, G Cann (LMRA) and G Ballinger (NZ) 50 10 Ball 50 7, P Coley 50.7, S Clark 50.5, R Aitken 50.5, R Betts 50.5. 900 yards: 1, R Mayston (NZ) 50 9: 11, Ball 50.7.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Leeds 28 Oldham 26; Workington 24 Warrington 16. First division: Whitehaven 16 Widnes 14, Wakefield 24 Batley 14. Second division: Bramley 4 Hull KR 40, Carlisle 48 Barrow 6, Doncaster 12 Hunslet 36, York 36 Swinton 20

RUGBY UNION

TEAMS: Ireland A v Scotland A (to be played at Donnybrook, January 19): Ireland A: C O'Shea (London Irish), S Mason (Orrell), J Gallagher (Blackheath), S McCahill (Sunday's Well), N Woods (Blackrock College), D Humphreys (London Irish), A Rolland (Blackrock College), P Flavin (Blackrock College), S Byrne (Blackrock College), P Wallace (Blackrock College), V Costello (St Mary's College), D Tweed (Ballymena), M O'Kelly (St Mary's College), E Miller (Leicester), A Foley (Shannon). Replacements: B Walsh (Cork Constitution), A McGowan (Blackrock College), S McIvor (Garryowen), L Toland (Old Crescent), R Mackey (Malone), P Cunningham (Garryowen). Scotland A: S Lang (Heriot's FP), C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), G Shiel (Melrose), R Eriksson (London Scottish), J Kerr (Watsonians), S Welsh (Hawick), G Armstrong (Newcastle), G Wilson (Boroughmuir), G Ellis (Currie), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), P Walton (Newcastle), M Norval (Stirling County), D Cronin (Bourges), B Renwick (Hawick), J Amos (Gala). Replacements: S Lang (Instonians), S Nichol (Selkirk), G Burns (Stewart's Melville FP), D Burns (Boroughmuir) M Browne (Melrose), M Scott (Orrell)

TENNENTS INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Scottish Exiles 34 South of Scotland 9, Edinburgh District 15 North and Midlands 22.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: RAF 34 Civil Service 20, Royal Navy 16 Combined London OB 24

SQUASH

EDGBASTON PRIORY, Birmingham: QM national championships: Men: First round: P Lord (Cheshire) bt S Handley (Oxfords) 9-3, 9-1, 3-9, 9-4, D Meddings (Surrey) bt G Thwaite (Cumbria) 9-5, 9-6, 9-6, A Toes (Yorks) bt D Campion (Yorks) 9-7, 6-9, 9-3 ret, M Chaloner (Lincs) bt P Carter (Herts) 9-2, 9-0, 9-1, A Gough (Herts) bt N Durgan (Bucks) 9-6, 9-1, 3-0 ret, P Johnson (Kent) bt A Abou Taleb (Kent) 9-5, 9-6, 9-5; J Davis (Herts) bt T Garner (Sussex) 9-6, 9-3, 9-2; D Harris (Essex) bt P Blanksby (Notts) 9-0, 9-1, 9-6. Women: First round: C Jackman (Norfolk) bt G Kemson (Sussex) 9-2, 9-1, 9-0; S Fetion (Northants) bt L Parker (Worcs) 9-2, 9-1, 9-0, L Chapman (Sussex) bt L Brown (Staffs) 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, K Buckley (Essex) bt N Martin (Northants) 9-3, 9-3, 9-5, F Geaves (Glos) bt S Littler (Herts) 9-1, 9-1, 9-1, D Lewis (Sussex) bt K Hargreaves (Merseyside) 9-2, 9-6, 9-2, J Mann (Northumbria) b M Goodhead (Worcs) 9-0, 9-0, 9-1, D Vardy (Norfs) bt N Clark (Sussex) 9-3, 9-0, 9-1

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: European Olympic qualifying tournament: Selected results: Men: Stage one: M Syed (GB) bt J Braun (Cz) 21-10, 21-14, 21-15, M Syed (GB) bt T Miller (Switz) 19-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-14 Women: Stage one: A Holt (GB) bt T Stofbal (Is) 21-11, 21-13, 21-19; L Lomas (GB) bt S Stanic (Yug) 21-13, 10-21, 21-17, 16-21, 21-16, A Broe (GB) bt E Hennques (Por) 21-16, 21-9, 21-8

TENNIS

SYDNEY: International tournament: Men: Quarter-finals: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-4, 7-5, T Martin (US) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, G Rusedski (GB) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, T Woodbridge (Aus) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 Women: Second round: K Date (Japan) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-4, 6-3, C Rubin (US) bt T Jecmenica (Yug) 6-0, 2-1, ret; B Schultz-McCarthy (Hol) bt L Raymond (US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, N Bradtke (Aus) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-4, 6-2 Quarter-final: M Seles (US) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-3, 6-2

MELBOURNE: Australian Open qualifying tournament: Selected results: Men: First round: S Campbell (US) bt A Richardson (GB) 6-2, 6-3, D Nargiso (It) bt D Sapsford (GB) 6-3, 6-4, T Suzuki (Japan) bt N Baglin (GB) 7-6, 6-3.

MELBOURNE: Men's tournament: Semi-final: M Chang (US) bt J Couner (US) 6-4, 6-0 Consolation round: P Rafter (Aus) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 4-6, 3-1 ret, W Ferreira (SA) bt S Edberg (Swe) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6.

FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship
Castleford v Bradford (7.30) .....

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan St Patricks v Leigh Miners Welfare (7.30)

FOOTBALL

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Athlone v Monaghan (8.0); Bohemians v Moyle Pk College (7.45), St Patrick's Athletic v Workmans/Dunleary (7.45). Waterford v Galway (7.45)

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury v Haverhill (7.30)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Gloucestershire v Devon (at Forest Green, 7.0). Guggenheim Trophy: Reading v Swindon (at Palmer Park, 7.45)

OTHER SPORT

TABLE TENNIS: Olympic qualifying tournament (Nynex Arena, Manchester).

SQUASH: QM national championships (Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer South — East - West game — Rubber bridge



Contract: Five Diamonds by South — Lead: King of Hearts

South opened Three Diamonds and North raised to Five Diamonds. How should South play after ruffing the heart in dummy?

This refresher is about counting your tricks. Here, you have one in spades, a heart ruff you have just made and six tricks in diamonds. You need three more from somewhere. You can get only one more heart ruff, for, when the defence gains the lead, they will play a trump and so confine you to two ruffs.

So, it appears that you should play for tricks in clubs. With this club holding, it is often right to lead towards the king-queen, but see what happens if you try that here. You come to hand with a trump and lead a club. West ducks and you can ruff a club in hand. However, though you can get a heart ruff and another club ruff, you are a trick short when the ace of clubs does not come down.

The solution is to play the king of clubs from dummy at trick two. If West takes it and switches to spades, you can cross-ruff for 11 tricks (you get two black tricks and nine diamond tricks). If West plays a trump, you win in dummy, play the queen of clubs and ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff a club and draw trumps. Now, the fifth club is established and you still have the ace of spades as your entry — you make the ace of spades, two heart ruffs, six diamond tricks in hand, the queen of clubs and the fifth club.

☐ The 1996 Macallan International pairs championship will be played at The White House Hotel, Regent's Park, London, on January 24 to 26. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office (tel: 0181-878 5844).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams wins

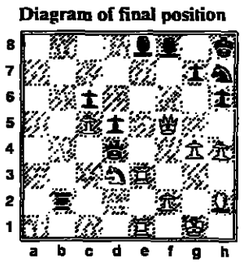
Although Michael Adams, the British grandmaster, got off to a very slow start in the tournament at Groningen, Holland, over Christmas, he recovered well with a sequence of fine wins. In the closing round, he inflicted this sharp defeat on Joel Lautier, the young Frenchman. The opening chosen by Adams has not yet become mainstream theory, but it has proved extremely popular not only with Adams himself but also with other English grandmasters, including Julian Hodgson and Tony Miles. In this game, Lautier is obliged to accept a cramped position and Adams finishes him off efficiently.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Joel Lautier
Groningen, December 1995

Trompovsky Attack

1	d4	d5
2	Bg5	h6
3	Bh4	c6
4	Nf3	Ob6
5	b3	Nd7
6	e3	e5
7	Bg3	exd4
8	exd4	Ngf6
9	Bd3	Be7
10	0-0	0-0
11	Re1	Re8
12	c4	Nf8
13	c5	Qd8
14	h3	Ng6
15	Nc3	Nh5
16	Bxg6	hxg6
17	Bh2	Bf8
18	Ne5	Qf6
19	Re3	Re6
20	Rf3	Qd8
21	g4	Nf6
22	Nxg6	Bd7
23	Qd3	Nh7
24	Ne5	Be8
25	Re1	b6
26	b4	a5
27	a3	axb4
28	axb4	bxc5
29	bxc5	Ra3
30	Rfe3	Qa5
31	Qd2	Qa6
32	h4	Re7
33	Ne2	Ra2
34	Qd3	Qa5
35	Qc3	Qa4
36	Qc1	Ra7
37	Nc3	Qxd4
38	Nxa2	Rxa2
39	Qb1	Rb2
40	Qf5	Kh8
41	Nd3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Varna draw

Anatoly Karpov and Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster, drew a six-game match at speed chess time limits, where the total prize fund was $40,000. The score in Varna was two wins each, with two draws.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BATTOLOGY
a. Study of the flittermouse
b. Repetition
c. The science of lunacy

PROCACITY
a. Impudence
b. Haste
c. Cleverness

BROMIDROSIS
a. Evening dew
b. A water plant
c. Smelly sweat

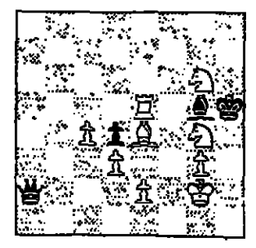
TAPHEPHOBIA
a. Horror of burial
b. Dread of moles
c. The Spartan cavalry club

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Larsen — Chandler, Hastings Premier, 1987. Although Black has an extra queen, White has more than enough material compensation and he now forced a quick checkmate. Can you see how?



Solution on page 38

هكذا من الأصل

France offer Lacroix controlling interest

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE, placed third in the world after victory over a disappointing England during the final week of the World Cup in June, seek to confirm a novel supremacy over the same opponents with a reshuffled pack in Paris on January 20. They will open the rugby union five nations' championship with Thierry Lacroix at stand-off half and five forward changes from the side that played New Zealand in November.

After sharing the international series with the All Blacks 1-1 and demonstrating exciting new talent behind the scrum, France will start favourites against England, even though they have not beaten them at the Parc des Princes since 1988.

There is only one newcomer, Michel Périé, the Toulon loose-head prop, who displaces Laurent Bénézech. Périé, 26, made a late start to the season after an injury, but has come on in leaps and bounds while Bénézech has struggled for form with Racing Club.

So, according to reports, has Laurent Cabannes, the experienced open-side flanker, but he returns along with the two other players who, because they chose to stay playing provincial rugby in South Africa until October, were not considered against New Zealand: Olivier Roumat takes his accustomed position at lock and Lacroix his club position of stand-off.

The return of Roumat allows the French selectors to switch Fabien Pelous to No 8; Pelous, 22, made a good first impression against New Zealand in Toulouse and his ball-handling qualities suggest an ability to play a loose game.

Jean-Marc Gonzales, who has demonstrated his fitness in training on the island of Embiez, near Toulon, this week, reclaims the hooking berth from Marc de Rougemont, while the selection of Lacroix at No 10 solves a problem for France. The flighty Alain Penaud has not settled into the role. Christophe Deylaud showed too many weaknesses during the World Cup, but Lacroix showed for Natal last summer how to control a game.

"Every time I have played at stand-off before, France's reputation has been in danger," Lacroix said. "This time, I am recognised as the boss of the backs and I'll be happy to play alongside such enthusiastic youngsters."

England started their four-day training camp at Bisham Abbey yesterday with fitness doubts still hanging over Tim Rodber, the back-row replacement. Rodber did not train after knee and ankle injuries sustained last weekend, but it is hoped he will have recovered by tomorrow.

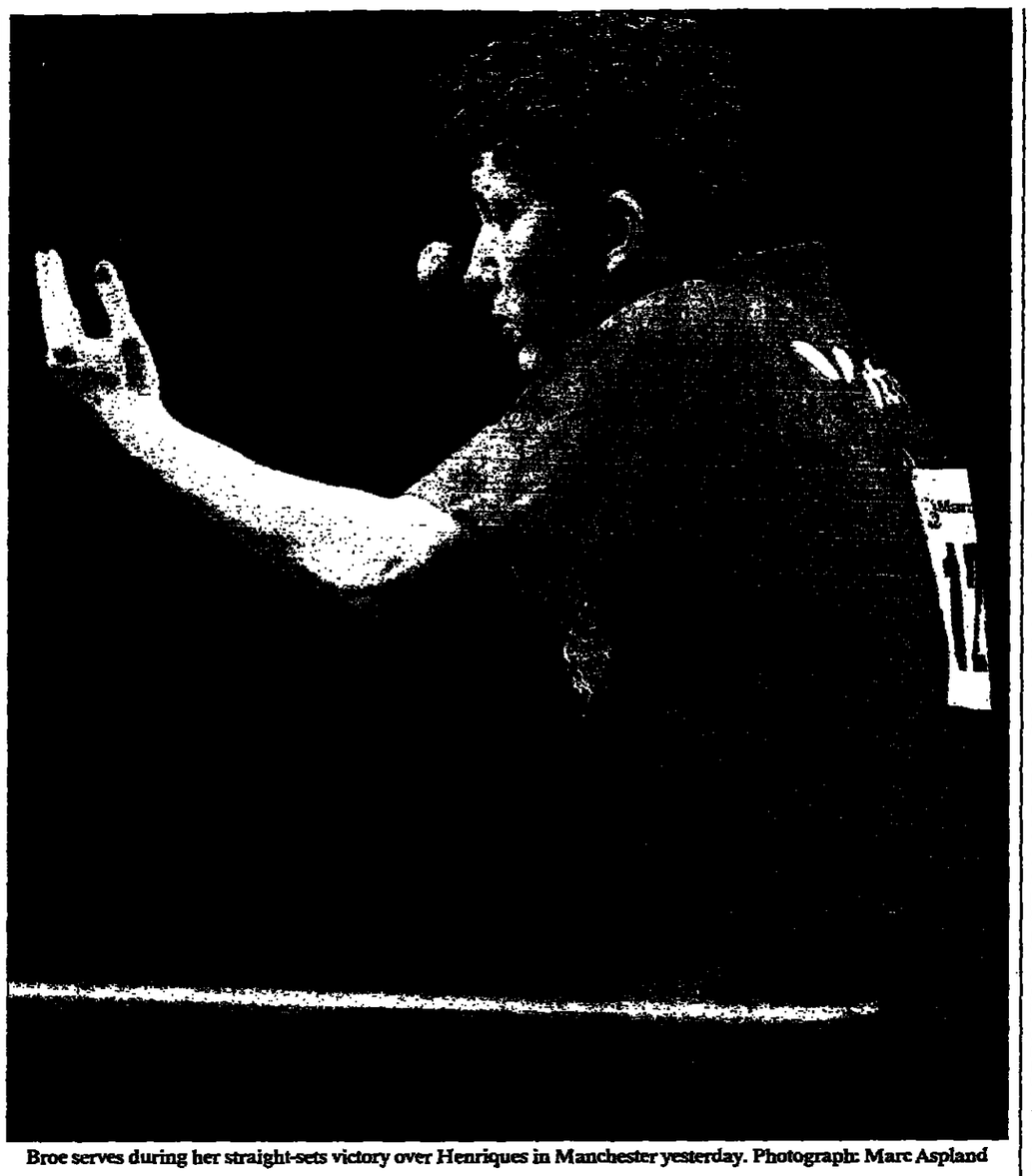
Ireland's team to play Scotland at Lansdowne Road on January 20 is a vote of confidence in Eric Elwood at stand-off half, his experience over the slow-starting Paul Burke earning him a recall.

John Gallagher, the former New Zealand full back who turned to rugby league, takes a step nearer further international honours with selection — at centre — for the Ireland A international with Scotland at Donnybrook on January 19.

FRANCE XV

J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), E N'Tamack (Toulouse), C Dourthe (Dax), T Castaignède (Toulouse), P Saint-André (Montferrand, capt), T Lacroix (Dax), P Carbonneau (Toulouse), M Périé (Toulon), J-M Gonzales (Bayonne), C Califano (Toulouse), A Benezza (Agen), O Roumat (Dax), O Merle (Montferrand), L Cabannes (Racing), F Pelous (Dax) Replacements: P Bernat-Salles (Begles-Bordeaux), A Penaud (Brive), G Accoceberry (Begles-Bordeaux), L Bénézech (Racing), M de Rougemont (Toulon), R Castel (Toulouse)

IRELAND (v Scotland): J E Staples (Harlequins, captain); R M Wallace (Garryowen), J C Bell (Northampton), K P McCullen (Bective Rangers), S P Geoghegan (Bath); E P Elwood (Lansdowne), C Saverimutto (Sale); N J Popplewell (Newcastle), T J Kingston (Dolphin), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), J Davidson (Dungannon), G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution), N P J Francis (Old Belvedere), D Corkery (Terenure College), P S Johns (Dungannon) Replacements: M J Field (Malone), P A Burke (Cork Constitution), N A Hogan (Terenure College), W D McBride (Malone), A Clarke (Northampton), H D Hurley (Old Wesley)



Broe serves during her straight-sets victory over Henriques in Manchester yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Thoughtful Syed chops and changes

BY RICHARD EATON

MATTHEW SYED made sure of reaching the second stage of the Olympic qualifying table tennis competition when he scored his third victory in two days, an entertaining 19-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-14 success against the Swiss champion, Thierry Miller, in Manchester yesterday.

The England No 1 had to escape from a tense situation at 16-all in the second game, but it was the contrast in styles between Miller's ferocious forehand loop — one of the fastest in Europe — and Syed's mobile and thoughtful defending that made this encounter such a spectacle.

The turning point came when Syed began to play his chopped backhand defensive strokes a little earlier, forcing Miller to loop slower and higher, and opening opportunities for some splendid Syed counter-attacks. Chen Xinhua, the England coach, was so conspicuous about imparting this tactical advice to Syed halfway through the third game that he was given a yellow card by the Dutch umpire for illegal coaching.

However, Chen's counsel appeared to work and Syed was quick to take advantage of the possibilities that this ploy opened up, regularly luring his opponent into optimistic attacking gambles. Miller's errors grew more frequent and he became increasingly puzzled by Syed's hits and counter-loops.

"I hadn't played against anyone with such a fast loop as that for some time," Syed said. "When he switched it from wing to wing, it was dangerous, but, after a while, I began to read the signs of when he did it and learnt to handle it."

Three English women — Alison Broe, Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt — also made sure of their places in Atlanta with victories yesterday. Broe, the former English national champion, gained her second and third successes, beating Elsa Henriques, of Portugal, 21-16, 21-9, 21-8, and Armina Makinian, of Armenia, 19-21, 21-13, 21-13, 21-16.

Holt, the England No 1, saved three set points in a critical fourth game to overcome Eldijana Aganovic, of Croatia, 21-17, 21-19, 18-21, 27-25, but Lomas encountered few problems against Rutta Garkuskite, of Lithuania, winning 21-19, 21-12, 21-9.

Results, page 37

RADIO CHOICE

Of pleasure and leisure

Kaleidoscope Feature: Le Weekend. *Radio 4, 9.30pm.*

Unaccountably saddled with a French definite article, Brian Sibley's survey of what we do when we take a rest from work begins and ends with those golden moments when Tony Hancock and Sid James bemoaned the joylessness of yet another weekend. The Romans filled their leisure hours with pleasures harmless to them but not always to others. They watched men hacking each other to pieces in the arena. In medieval England, 60 days-off a year was not uncommon. Most were saints' days — hence the holy days that became holidays. In one village, there was a 500-a-side football match. Victorian Sundays were respectably marked by family songs around the parlour piano. How different from 1990s Sundays when we shop until we drop.

Howard Keel Presents Playhouse. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

James Montgomery's partial histories of six London theatres deal only with musicals and take no account of any plays that may have been staged there. Tonight is the turn of the Prince of Wales theatre. This building, situated in Coventry Street between Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square, occupies the site of an earlier theatre where musical comedy was born in 1892 with a show called *In Town*. Like all theatres, the Prince of Wales has had its ups and downs. A big "up" was Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*, which ran for three years. A big "down" was *City of Angels*, which, despite glowing notices, expired after only four months.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 The Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel with Zeni Geva in session 1.00am Radio 1 Rap Show 4.00-6.00 Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Howard Keel Presents Playhouse: The Prince of Wales Theatre. See Choice 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Whisky Galore! (5/8) 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Agatha! Radio 2 Arts Programme. Claire Rayner on Agatha Christie 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 11.30 Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Russcle on Five 4.00 John Inverdale, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Parkinson on Sport 9.35 Off Piste 9.05 American Graffiti 9.35 Stop Press 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 *McSorley's Saloon* 7.30 Surviving the 20th Century 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.15 Faith 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 *McSorley's Saloon* 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain 12.30 Science 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.00 News in German 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack: Alternative 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.10 Spotlight 11.15 Surviving the 20th Century 11.45 The Farming World Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Seven Days 1.30 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Jazz 4.45 Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Rachmaninov (Excerpts from Vespers); Strauss (Also Sprach Zarathustra); Fauré (Nocturnes); Couperin (Suite de simphonie en trio); Stenhammar (Overture, Excelsior); Sibelius (Tapiola)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini
10.00 Musical Encounters. Gabrieli (Exaudi me Domine; Magnificat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Ravel (Un Grand Sommeil Noir); Brahms (String Sextet No 1 in B flat); Vaughan Williams, arr Mathieson (Three Portraits from *The England of Elizabeth*)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart. Extracts from *The Magic Flute*
1.00pm St David's Hall Recital. Gordon Fergus-Thompson, piano. Fauré (Ballade in F sharp; Barcarolle No 5 in F sharp minor; Nocturne No 6 in D flat), Debussy (Preludes Terrasse des audiences du clair de lune, No 7; Feux d'artifice, No 12); Fauré (Impromptu No 5 in F sharp minor; Nocturne No.13 in B minor)
2.00 A Series of Intervals. The minor 7th, with Adrian Jack
2.05 Early Music Summer Festivals. A concert of Handel and Vivaldi recorded at the Church of the Papal College last year
3.00 Mining the Archive. A performance from the 1974 City of London Festival
4.20 By the Waters of Babylon
4.30 Brazil: Songs from the Amazon
5.00 The Music Machine: 1900-1995 5.15 In Tune. Wolf-Ferrari (Festa Popolare)
5.30 A Series of Intervals. Adrian Jack and the major 7th
6.15 In Tune, part 2. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in F, Op 24, Spring); Liapunov (Rhapsody on Ukranian Themes)
7.30 A Series of Intervals. Adrian Jack rounds off in unison
7.35 Bury St Edmund's Festival. Silvia Marcovici, violin; BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier
9.05 Celtic Soul. Glendalough
9.25 Hear and Now. Recordings by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, under Elgar Howarth
12.00-1.00am Sekt, Smoke, Satire. Cabaret songs

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News Incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Christopher Hampton (r) 9.45 Letters from Ireland. Tim Robinson reflects on his passion for the west of Ireland (6/6)
10.00-10.30 News; A New Day (FM only). In 1958, the optimistic beginnings of the Glenrothes social experiment were charted in a short film called *New Day*. The town that was to combine quality housing, plenty of jobs and a clean environment is officially no longer a new town and throughout the rest of the country is known only for housing neighbours from hell
10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour, from Belfast. Serial: Michael Maloney reads Kate Fenton's comedy of love and manners *Lions and Liquorice* (9/12)
11.30 The Natural History Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles. *Barchester Towers*(2/3) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope
4.45 Short Story: Serendipity, by Ann Redmayne (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News 6.30 Going Places
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Cares, Fife. Among the panellists are MPs Roseanna Cunningham; Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland; and Mo Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary
8.05 Those Café Days. Last in the series
9.15 Letter from America
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Le Weekend (r). See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Harpoie Report (10/10)
11.00 Week Ending 11.25 Fourth Column, with Alistair Beaton
11.45 Powerful Substances: Oil
12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Maybe the Moon (5/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089.Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Conference clubs make grade

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL, BY WALTER GAMMIE

EIGHT Vauxhall Conference clubs have been confirmed as meeting the "A" ground grading required for promotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League. It now remains for any one of Bath City, Dover Athletic, Gateshead, Kettering Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Macclesfield Town, Southport or Woking to take the title and become the first Conference champions to go up since Wycombe Wanderers in 1993.

"I think it's important that somebody goes up to prove the system is working," Peter Hunter, the Conference chief executive, said yesterday. "We've been backed by the Sports Ground Initiative (SGI). They've put their confidence in the Conference and we want to respond to it." The SGI, funded by football pools companies, offers Conference clubs £250,000 over three years for ground improvement and safety work.

Hednesford Town, with their new Quays Stadium, and Morecambe, who did much work on Christie Park to gain promotion from the UniBond League, are close to the grading. Three more — Altrincham, Stevenage Borough and Slough Town — have given notice of substantial projects to secure their grading by the December 31 deadline this year. "We are putting pressure on those of our clubs that don't meet the criteria that we demand of clubs coming up from the Beazer, Icis and UniBond leagues by telling them to get up to those standards by 1998," Hunter said. "We get criticism that we have got clubs in the Conference that don't meet our criteria level, which I am afraid is true."

The past two winners of the Conference — Kidderminster, who are fifth, and Macclesfield, the leaders — meet at Aggbrough tomorrow.

Amarnath weathers the storm

FROM MEL WEBB IN SHARJAH

ONE game all and honour satisfied. India and Pakistan met for the second time in the World Cricket Masters series here yesterday and provided the closest and most gripping cricket of the tournament so far. India it was who won, by three wickets with five balls to spare in a match shortened by morning rain, and, by doing so, reversed a defeat at the hands of their old rivals in the preliminary games.

Generally speaking, the states and the people of Pakistan and India get along about as well as oil and water, but the cricketers of the countries seem to rub along pretty well. Thus, when India completed their first victory of the tournament, there was only the slightest hint of gritted teeth in the congratulation of their opponents.

As though to prove that not even the desert states of the United Arab Emirates are spared the curse of cricketers everywhere — a visitation from the patron saint of umbrellas, St Pluvius — it rained through part of the morning and caused the match to be reduced to 28 overs a side.

As chance would have it, Pakistan had batted for exactly that long when the second interruption for rain occurred, setting India to score 162. India looked to be out of it at 45 for four, but Sandeep Patil came in to give a brief but sparkling display of clean hitting; his 39 in as many balls was the first part of an Indian resurgence. After he had gone, India needed 78 off 12 overs.

Led by Amarnath, named man of the match for his undefeated 53, and supported spectacularly by Syed Kirmani, India had to score only two off the last six balls; they did it in one.

SCORES: Pakistan 161 for five (28 overs; Liaz Fazih 84; S Venkataraghavan 3-48); India 162 for seven (27.1 overs; M Amarnath 53 not out; Salander Bakht 3-23); India won by three wickets

DISCOVERY DATA: FASTEST ROLLERCOASTER: STEEL PHANTOM (USA): 80MPH

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off-p	Runs to resort		Weather (5pm) C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	15	70	fair	heavy	slush	fine	5	8/1
(Many pistes becoming very slushy and worn)								
Lech	50	90	good	fair	worn	sun	7	8/1
(Pistes good at altitude, more snow needed lower down)								
Obergurgl	70	110	good	varied	good	fine	5	8/1
(Still very good skiing despite warm föhn wind)								
St Anton	15	150	fair	heavy	worn	fine	2	8/1
(Higher pistes fine but others showing signs of wear)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	80	220	good	varied	good	cloud	4	7/1
(Plenty of good skiing, worn patches at busy spots)								
Avoriaz	105	130	good	varied	good	fine	-2	7/1
(Bright and clear excellent skiing)								
Chamonix	20	215	good	varied	fair	wind	1	6/1
(Highest lifts closed but good skiing still available)								
Tignes	75	130	good	heavy	fair	snow	1	11/1
(Good piste skiing; strong winds continue)								
Val d'Isère	80	150	good	heavy	fair	cloud	4	7/1
(Poor light and wind-blown snow; tricky skiing)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	60	270	good	powder	good	snow	2	11/1
(Excellent skiing on fresh powder; mixed visibility)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	85	110	good	heavy	worn	fair	-1	7/1
(Most Fort closed by wind, rocky pistes low down)								
Zermatt	15	110	fair	varied	art	cloud	2	10/1
(Some fresh snow and more expected, resort very quiet)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

BATTOLOGY

(b) The continual repetition of the same words or phrases in speech or writing. A battologer is one who battologises. The word should be better known and more used in view of its wide application to television commercials, salesmen of used cars and encyclopedias, politicians and television interviewers, homilies by spouses, and so on.

PROCACITY

(a) Petulance, impudence, prima donna's self-absorbed cheek. Not to be confused with *precocity*. From the Latin word. "I think Tatiana shows very considerable procacity," you say earnestly to Mrs Babypusher, after her narcissistic daughter has just beaten yours to the self-expression elocution finals.

BROMIDROSIS

(c) Smelly perspiration. *Osmidrosis* means the same thing, unnecessary superfluity of language for an unpleasant condition, but not one about which it is often necessary to talk. "Do I really have to sit with one of the Jones brothers, mother? What a dilemma — it's like being caught between Bromi and Osmi. What's that, mum? Oh, just a classical allusion."

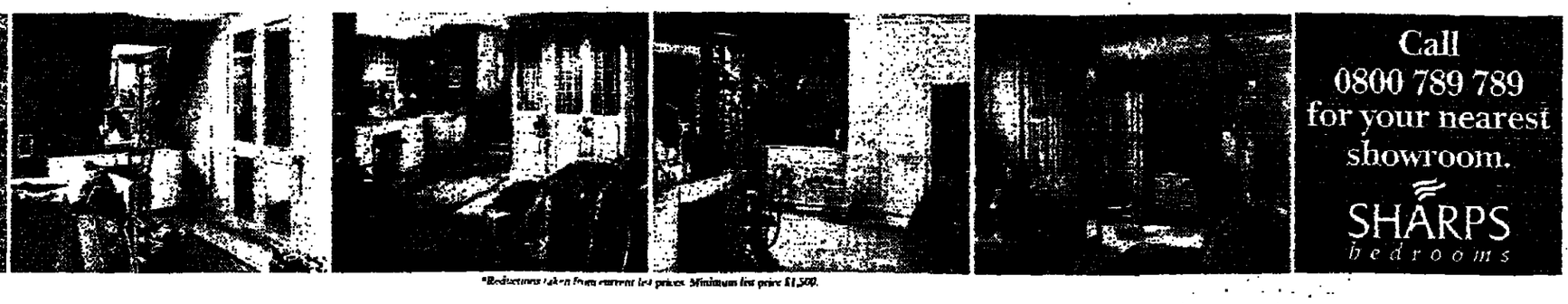
TAPHEPHOBIA

(a) A morbid dread of being buried alive. From the Greek *taphos* a grave + *phobia* unreasoning panic. "No, not with you on top, Alexandra. I do not think I could handle that. I'm taphephobic, you see."

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Inside story of a family's painful dilemma

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

I once met a man who never watched television. The reason was that he worked *from 4pm* to midnight, and slept till ten. The idea of filling his remaining waking hours — ten till four — watching a box indoors was naturally abhorrent, so he took up rug-making instead. Life arranged thus — wake, watch television, work, go to sleep — looks empty and worthless. When arranged with a subtle difference, however — wake, work, watch television, go to sleep — it really lifts the spirits.

I sound petulant and I am. Because for two weeks running, I have been unable for behind-the-scenes technical reasons to see Thursday's new *French and Saunders* in time to write about it. *Guaranteed next-day delivery* is a phrase that has lost all its former promise, since the "next-day" bit *does not come to pass*, the "guarantee" is naked cynicism, and "delivery" is a word deprived of all meaning by the shortfall of its friends. Patsy Kensit was to have *made an appearance on last night's show*. The movie spoof was *Braveheart*. And yet here I was watching **The Vet** again (BBC1), consoling myself with pleasant thoughts of the *French and Saunders* spoof which will one day follow — Jennifer Saunders with a too-long straw fringe as Jen; Dawn French swinging her arms with alarming flamboyance as that rolling-gaited little vet-bloke, Chris.

But it is wrong to live your life for spite. Even without *French and Saunders*, it was not such a bad evening. It was, however, rather horrible in content — with *The Vet* concerning bloody rural dog-fights, **Inside Story** (BBC1) investigating the impossible choices faced by parents of a brain-damaged child, and *Traces of Guilt* (BBC2) *telling the real-life crime story of* an Austrian serial killer who strangled his female victims with their bras and left them naked on forest floors. Ever since I met the *man with the peculiar job-hours*, I have applied the same test to an evening's television: would I want *to spend a morning watching this?* *Inside Story* and *Traces of Guilt* were both good programmes. But by the time I got to work, I'd be a bludgeoned wreck, staring blankly, and whimpering "Patsy Kensit?" in a regretful, demoralised kind of way.

The story of the Stewart family, with their brain-damaged child Ian, was already known to media-watchers before last night's sympathetic *Inside Story*. The Stewarts have been vocal about their appalling problem: their two-year-old child requires constant one-to-one attention, he is in perpetual discomfort, he can't see or hear. They rub his legs and cuddle him. "What's the matter, Ian?" they ask, with astonishing patience. In their nice house in sunny Sidmouth, Ian twirls aimlessly in his baby-bouncer, while (a bit much, this) *How Much is that Doggy?* plays on a music-box. When their story was aired on *You Decide*, 80 per cent of Jeremy Paxman's audience agreed that when Ian started to suffer terminally, euthanasia was the answer.

But of course euthanasia is not available and the strength of last night's film was that it showed a complicated issue growing ever more involved. *The Stewarts had* believed Ian's heart condition was fatal (it was during heart surgery *that his brain was damaged*). But now a surgeon says another operation is possible. A neurologist, shining lights in Ian's eyes, detects a small improvement. The moral implication of both these double-edged opinions is unstated but clear: if there is hope, there must be life.

Parents watching the plight of the Stewarts must have been torn in all directions — from sympathy to outrage. Night-time stints tending an inconsolable child are familiar to everybody: the Stewarts' special pleading is simply too extreme. But how can this couple behave on screen, if they wish to engage our support? If they are petulant or self-pitying, we withdraw like snails on contact with salt. Yet if they are brave and saintly, we can't see how bad the problem is. They have risked exposure on television — a dangerous game. Given popular prejudices, it doesn't help, either, that *they are white South Africans.*

So what did Patsy Kensit *do* on *French and Saunders*? Ho hum. BBC2's second **Traces of Guilt** was again a forensic detective story brilliantly told. It began by suggesting a contrast between murder investigations in America and Europe — taking similar serial killings of prostitutes in Los Angeles and Vienna — and then, what a turn-up, it transpired that the killings in both continents were done by the same bloke! (Actually, this conclusion was guessable, but it's sometimes nice to act surprised.)

Excitingly, the perpetrator was an Austrian celebrity — rather handsome, debonair, Jeremy Irons will doubtless play him in the film. Imprisoned for murder in 1975, Jack Unterweger had become a *famous writer while in prison: on his* early parole in 1990 (his release urged by sucker intellectuals) he launched a media career as a rehabilitation success story. But alas, intellectuals are notoriously unreliable in such matters and Unterweger was no sooner through the gates than he embarked on a spree of killing.

As always in true-crime stories, the interest focused on the killer, not the killed. But at least his story had special literary interest. Unterweger was such a classic *Übermensch* that he even turned up at police headquarters (in his role of literary bad boy) to interrogate them about the case. He was finally nailed by sophisticated forensic science but I suspect that if prison warders had observed his reading habits ("Nietzsche? Is it good?") they might have saved themselves a lot of trouble.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (38454)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (29037096)

9.10 Kilroy (s) (2173657)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (Ceefax) (4068913) **10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** for the culinarily challenged (s) (6310744)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (19251)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6456725) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (9687831) **12.50 Regional News** and weather (13999386)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (59102)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (64451812) **1.50 Banacek**. With George Peppard (2743657) **3.05** *Timekeepers* (5811541)

3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (1115812) **3.50 Look Sharp!** with Chris Jarvis (s) (2147893) **4.05 The All New Popeye Show** (8267216) **4.15 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (2979522) **4.30 The Mask** (Ceefax) (s) (9176270)

4.55 Newsround Extra. Chris Rogers reports on the children who ride around Dublin on horses (Ceefax) (6112454) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (7791454)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (449580)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (251)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (831)

7.00 CHOICE **Gagtag**. (Ceefax) (s) (1893)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a new treatment for heart attacks (Ceefax) (s) (265)

8.00 Just Good Friends. Comedy series starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r). (Ceefax) (6611)

8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Ally McCoist with Ben Clarke, Karen Pickering, Colin Montgomerie and Steve Stone, answer questions from David Coleman. (Ceefax) (s) (9676)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9706)



Professor Wallace, Sue Scott Davison (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Operation Coathanger — A 999 Special** (Ceefax) (s) (548015)

10.20 Small Sacrifices. The conclusion of the film adaptation of the true story of mother-of-three Diane Downs, who claims her children were shot by a stranger, but was herself charged with *murder and* attempted murder. With Farrah Fawcett, John Shea and Ryan O'Neal (r) (Ceefax) (99326589) **WALES: 10.20** All Our Lives (441725) **10.50** Small Sacrifices (78528725) **12.25-2.15am** Film: Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (456042)

12.25am FILM: Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974) starring Warren Oates, Gig Young, Isela Vega, Robert Webber, Helmut Dantine and Emilio Fernandez. The father of an influential Mexican family offers $1,000,000 for the head of the man who impregnated his daughter. However, a bar owner discovers that the man has already been killed in a car crash and sets off for the grave to chop off the head of the corpse. What follows is a violent analysis of a man's quest for love and meaning in a *nightmare world*. Sam Peckinpah directs. (Ceefax) (2058348) **1.40 Weather** (2392435)

BBC2

6.00am Business and Work (93840698)

7.00 Breakfast News (Signing and subtitles) (6400831)

7.15 Lassie (3531909) **7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (7688164) **8.05 The Really Wild Show** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5631980)

8.35 The Record (s) (9822015) **9.00 The Little Train to Lynton** (r) (54218) **9.30 Seabrook's Year** (r) (68909) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6319015)

10.25 FILM: And So They Were Married (1944, b/w) starring Simone Simon and Robert Mitchum. A comedy directed by Joe May (5832763)

11.40 The Fugitive (b/w) (1787270) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (62725) **1.00 Spot** (r) (73472909) **1.05 Johnson and Friends** (r) (s) (28213657) **1.15 Hollywood's Children** (r) (1890367)

2.10 Sport On Friday with racing from Ascot at **2.35**, **3.05** and **3.35** and skiing from Austria (779693)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (744) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (926) **5.00 Esther**. Mummy's boys (s) (9299)

5.30 The Village (899021) **5.55 Turning Points** with Christopher Lee (s) (746096)

6.00 The Munsters (b/w). (Ceefax) (563229)

6.25 The New Avengers (r). (Ceefax) (480744)

7.15 Electric Circus (682744)

7.30 NEW **Sounds of the Eighties**. An eight-part series of music from the BBC archives. (Ceefax) (s) (657)

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport with Tiff Needell and Jeremy Clarkson (r) (8183)



Helen Yemm, centre, and friends (8.30pm)

8.30 Gardening from Scratch. Tips from Helen Yemm on saving a tatty lawn (Ceefax) (s) (7218)

9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. Starring Gregor Fisher as the Glaswegian philosopher. (Ceefax) (s) (8926)

9.30 The Fast Show. Comedy sketches (r). (Ceefax) (s) (82589)

10.00 The Real McCoy. Comedy. (Ceefax) (s) (35183)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (193909)

11.15 Fantasy Football League. David Baddiel and *Frank Skinner are joined by Melvyn Bragg and Alan* Davies (s) (272299) **WALES: 11.15** Welsh Lobby **11.45** Fantasy Football **12.20** The Rocker **1.15** Film: Jobman **11.45 Weather** (119980)

11.50 The Rocker: A Portrait of Phil Lynott. A documentary on the life of the leader of rock band Thin Lizzy, who died in 1986, aged 36 (s) (446763)

12.45am FILM: Jobman (1990) starring Kevin Smith. A powerful drama about the fortunes and lack thereof of deaf and dumb Jobman. Directed by Darrell Roodt (767435). Ends at **2.20**

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CHOICE

999 Special: Operation Coathanger
BBC1, 9.30pm (Scotland, 10.20pm)

One of the plum news stories of 1995, fantastic if it had not happened to be true, made international celebrities of a British woman and the two doctors who saved her life in mid-air. Paula Dixon (played by Sue Scott Davison) was flying back from Hong Kong when she screamed out in pain from a collapsed lung. Shortly before take-off she had changed her flight, a huge piece of luck because her fellow passengers included Professor Angus Wallace, a surgeon and trauma specialist, and Tom Wong, a doctor. Their improvised operation used a wire coat-hanger, a glass of brandy and sticky tape. It is reconstructed in unsparing detail with Dixon and the medics adding their memories of a treatment that could just as easily have killed as cured.

Gag Tag
BBC1, 7.00pm (not Scotland)

Meet Phill Jupitus, a man with an appalling criminal record. It is Robson and Jerome singing *I Believe*. Thank Bob Monkhouse for that little gem, as he referees a new series of the show in which teams of comedians try to outquip each other. The idea for *Gag Tag is credited to Tracey Macleod, late of BBC2's The Late Show*, but the caption competition is a straight lift from *Have I Got News For You* and there are also borrowings from that glorious radio comedy *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*. But if the format is derivative, the gags are fresh and they are delivered by comics such as Jupitus, Billy Pearce and Fred Macaulay whose relative unfamiliarity makes a welcome change from the usual, over-exposed faces.

Gardens Without Borders
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Spain and Portugal are the locations as the enthusiastic Yorkshireman Alan Mason launches a third series about continental approaches to gardening. British garden enthusiasts will be hoping to pick up ideas, though *differences in climate mean* that many of the specimens highlighted by Mason and Will Giles, a botanic illustrator from Norfolk, are unlikely to travel. The obvious exception is the geranium, Spain's favourite plant and a speciality in northern coastal villages. Tonight's programme starts in the Santander region, with one of the country's finest tree collections, and moves to the Costa Brava, ignoring the tourists in favour a cliff-top botanical garden with the Mediterranean as a backdrop.



Jo Brand explores domestic violence (Ch4, 10.30pm)

Jo Brand Through the Cakehole
Channel 4, 10.30pm

You take Jo Brand or you leave her and if you are a man you have to be prepared to duck. "The main victims of crime," she observes, "are young blokes"— pause — "so *there's* something to be cheerful about." But when she defines road rage as men being idiots in cars rather than anywhere else, it is hard to disagree. Her attacks on the voyeurism of shows such as *Crimewatch* and *Crime Monthly* are similarly on target. Brand's stand-up routine, delivered before *what looks like a mainly female audience*, is interrupted by sketches. These include a return of the Drudge Squad, a witty spoof on police domestic violence teams, and an all-female amateur dramatic society's version of *Reservoir Dogs*. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV (2977928)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4413522)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) (6386164)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (1160560)

10.35 This Morning (57301270) **12.20pm London Today** and weather (Teletext) (6452909)

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6759831)

12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (6734522) **1.25 Chain Letters**. (Teletext) (s) (32193367)

1.55 Shortland Street (64456367) **2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show** (s) (18169015) **2.50 High Road**. (Teletext) (4696541)

3.20 ITN News headlines (2348015) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2347386)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (2152725) **3.45 Pluto** (2140980) **4.00 Zzzap!** (2981367) **4.15 Bimble's Bucket** (s) (2560788) **4.40 Gladiators** (Teletext) (7883947)

5.10 After 5 with Mary Nightingale (6226096)

5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (561831)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (468675)

6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (276638)

7.00 Family Fortunes. Les Dennis invites the Donnellys from London to take on the Andersons from Hull. (Teletext) (s) (6589)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (183)

8.00 The Bill: Outer When Boulton tries to prove his mettle by arresting a local drug dealer, he is prepared to bend the rules to ensure he gets results. (Teletext) (2909)



Selina Scott introduces dramas (8.30pm)

8.30 Eye Spy More real-life dramas recorded on *security cameras around Britain*, presented by Selina Scott (s) (4744)

9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Tide of Life Episode two of the period drama following the fortunes of a young housekeeper at the turn of the century. (Teletext) (s) (3725)

10.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (39909) **10.30 London Tonight** (743541)

10.40 FILM: Overexposed (1990). Thriller based on a *true story*. A Chicago woman is conned into thinking her husband is unfaithful. To get her revenge, she starts an affair with the man who provided the information. By the time she realises she has been tricked, her life and marriage are spiralling out of control. Starring Marcy Walker, Dan Lauria, Terence Knox, Taylor Miller. Directed by Robert Markowitz (Teletext) (s) (74148589)

12.25am Hotel Babylon Guests include Rachel Hunter, Sadie Frost and Spike Lee, with music from Coolio, the Charlatans and the Nightcrawlers (4962684)

1.05 The Good Sex Guide . . . Late (2534435)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (6184058)

3.00 Dear Nick (r) (84597)

4.00 Jones and Jury (r) (18729752)

4.20 Night Shift (Teletext) (49956619)

4.25 Cool Vibes (17816435)

4.35 Not Fade Away (r) (2639042)

5.30 ITN Morning News (29868)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5040893)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (49725)

9.00 Fifteen To One (r) (Teletext) (s) (49386)

9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit (r) (s) (86305)

10.00 FILM: Life Begins at 8.30 (1942, b/w). A dissipated has-been, Monty Woolley, relies on the devotion of his crippled daughter, Ida Lupino — *until a suitor enters her life*. With Cornel Wilde. Directed by Irving Pichel (95812)

11.30 Living Memory: The 1980s (r) (29522)

12.30pm Sesame Street (71676) **1.30 Camberwick Green** (r) (76246218) **1.55 Ballet Robotique** (64463657)

2.15 FILM: Halfway House (1944, b/w). A thriller about the supernatural experiences of a number of guests at a remote Welsh inn. Starring Glynis Johns and Mervyn Johns. Directed by Basil Dearden (824562)

4.00 Backdate presented by Valerie Singleton (Teletext) (s) (812)

4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (116)

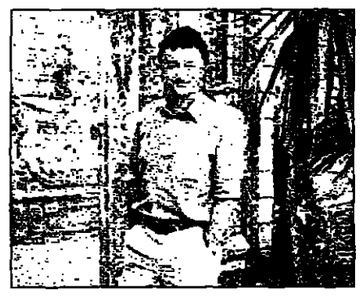
5.00 Cutting Edge: Car Thieves (Teletext) (r) (s) (6102)

6.00 Blossom: You Did What? (r). (Teletext) (s) (569)

6.30 Moviewatch (r). (Teletext) (s) (541)

7.00 Channel 4 News including at **7.30** headlines and weather (394893)

7.55 Book Choice. (Teletext) (s) (644744)



Garden designer Alan Mason (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Gardens Without Borders** (Teletext) (s) (3251)

8.30 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (2386)

9.00 Cybill: How Can I Call You My Ex-Husbands If You Won't Go Away Cybill Shepherd is not entirely convinced she has done the right thing when she lets both her former husbands move in with her. What makes it all worse is that she has to consider doing a nude scene in a film with Erik Estrada and she is not sure if her body is up to it any more. With guest appearances from George Hamilton and the voice of Ellen Greene. (Teletext) (s) (3096)

9.30 Rising Damp: The Cocktail Hour. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter. (Teletext) (77657)

10.00 Roseanne: Let Them Eat Junk. Wisecracking American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (20251)

10.30 CHOICE **Jo Brand Through the Cakehole: Violence** (Teletext) (s) (471299)

11.05 FILM: Who Shot Patakango? (1989) Romantic story set in 1950s Brooklyn follows a Romeo and Juliet-style romance between a high school student and an upper-crust college girl — Sandra Bullock in *only her second film*. Directed by Robert Brooks (939909)

1.05am FILM: He Ran All the Way (1951). Powerful and tense gangster thriller starring John Garfield in his final film. Directed by John Berry. (9390139)

2.25 Green Cop Rocker. By day, Chris Byrne is a second-generation Irish cop who patrols between 9th and 12th Avenues on New York's West Side. At night, he dons dark glasses and an earring to sing and play the Uileann pipes in Manhattan's hippest band, Black 47 (r) (s) (7599955) Ends at **3.00**

VARIATIONS

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (6396164) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News and Weather (6452909) **12.55** Coronation Street (6734522) **1.25** Home and Away (32193367) **1.55** Murder She Wrote (4618102) **2.50-3.20** Chain Letters (4696541) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (2347386) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6226096) **6.25** Anglia Weather (261980) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (299) **10.30-10.40** Anglia News (743541) **2.05am** Film: Prey Chop Hill (910955) **3.55** Live From London (5256955) **5.00** On the Live Side (44023)

CENTRAL

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (6396164) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (6452909) **1.55** A Country Practice (64456367) **2.20-3.20** Murder She Wrote (3251164) **3.25-3.30** Central News (2347386) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6226096) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (276638) **10.30** Central News and Weather (743541) **10.40** Central Weekend (74148589) **4.00am** Jobfinder (7296868) **5.20** Asian Eye (3809968)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (6734522) **1.25** Home and Away (1866726?) **1.50** The Entertainers (7622?096) **2.20-3.20** Blue Heelers (3251164) **5.10-5.40** High Road (6226096) **5.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (276638)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (5396164) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (6452909) **12.55** Murder She Wrote (4859215) **2.20** Chain Letters (4618102) **2.50-3.20** *The Woodwork Elf* (4696541) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (2347386) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6226096) **6.25** HTV News (7?7?58) **6.45-7.00** Sportsweek (915788) **10.30-10.40** HTV West Headlines and Weather (743541) **2.05am** Film: Pork Chop Hill (910955) **3.55** Live From London (5256955) **5.00** On the Live Side (44023)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 2.50-3.20 Yan Can (2?6?5?1) **6.25-7.00** Wales Tonight (276638) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (743541)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (6452909) **12.55** Home and Away (32193367) **1.55** A Country Practice (64456367) **2.20-3.20** Murder She Wrote (3251164) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6226096) **5.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (67270) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (743541) **2.05am** Film: Pork Chop Hill (910955) **3.55** Live From London (5256955) **5.00** Freescreen (44023)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (6396164) **12.20pm** Westcountry News (6461657) **12.25-12.30** My Story (64606928) **12.55** Chain Letters (67345522) **1.25** Coronation Street (32193367) **1.55** Home and Away (64456367) **2.20** Wish You Were Here...? (18189015) **2.50-3.20** Cat Crazy (4696541) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News; Weather (2347386) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6226096) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (67270) **10.30-10.40** Westcountry News, Weather (743541) **2.05am** Film: Pork Chop Hill (910955) **3.55** Live From London (5256955) **5.00** On the Live Side (44023)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (6396164) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire Calendar News and Weather / Bikedale: Network North (64529269) **1.55** Coronation Street (76223367) **2.25** Take the High Road (18168386) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire Calendar News / Bikedale: Network North (2347386) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6226096) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (834116) **6.30-7.00** Tonight (299) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (743541) **1.05am** American Gladiators (2278232) **1.55** Jones and Jury (8864042) **2.25** God's Gift (6183706) **3.25** Dear Nick (3?66077) **4.20** *Funny Business* (18812416) **4.45** Profile (97483874) **5.00** ITV Sport Classics (44023)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (49725) **9.00** Fifteen To One (49386) **9.30** Stand Still Be Fit (86305) **10.00** Film: Life Begins At 8.30 (86305) **11.30** 50 Years: The 1970s (4589) **12.00pm** Sesame Street (76828) **1.00** Slot Machine (42812) **1.30** Film: House Of Strangers (13095102) **3.20** Terrytoons (2337609) **3.30** Taste Of The Caribbean (305) **4.00** Backdate (812) **4.30** *The Pulse* (116) **5.00** 5 Pump Syth'86 (3158744) **6.15** 5 Pump Vanja (4512880) **5.30** Countdown (676) **6.00** Newyddion (474367) **6.15** Heno (918102) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (329763) **7.25** Cerdd Y Cymry (587676) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (3251) **8.30** Newyddion (2386) **9.00** Pawb A Fam (838588) **9.45** The Pan Local (641638) **10.00** *Brookside* (20251) **10.30** Jo Brand Through The Cakehole (471299) **11.05** Film: Who Shot Patakango? (9390139) **1.05am** Film: He Ran All The Way (9390139) **2.25** Green Cop *Rocker* (7599955)

10.00 Dressed to Kill (1980) (865725) **11.50-3.25am Lawrence of Arabia** (1962) (13190386)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am *Top Cat and the Beverly Hills Cats* (61454) **8.00 Inhumanoids: The Movie** (1986) (48522) **10.00 On an Island With You** (1948) (19657) **12.00 The Black Orchid** (1958) (81473) **2.00pm Official Denial** (1993) (47454) **4.00 Inhumanoids: The Movie** (1986) (2164) **6.00 Rise and Walk: The Dennis Byrd Story** (1994) (15015) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (2015) **8.00 The Night We Never Met** (1993) (52763) **10.00 Twilight Zone: Rod Serling's Lost Classics** (1983) (489631) **11.35 The Cover Girl Murders** (1993) (987638) **1.05am Silhouette** (1994) (326771) **2.40-4.40 The House of the Spirits** (1994) (77423416)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Umbrella Tree (31185812) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (80935314) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (19559571) **7.30** Ducktales (15321196) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (49941367) **8.30** Wonderland (49940638) **9.00** Walt Disney (31194560) **10.00** Umbrella Tree (76220706) **10.30** Fraggle (49663102) **11.00** Muppet Babies (68229386) **11.30** Pooh Corner (69220015) **12.00** Quack (49944454) **12.30pm** Dumbo (46549706) **1.00** Wonderland (53916182) **1.30** FILM: Mooncussers (99752667) **3.00** Disney Awards (20341560) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (30230314) **4.00** Quack (55080611) **4.30** Ducktales (59680675) **5.00** Cyberstar (70839980) **6.30** Stick With Me Kid (15863725) **7.30** Eyewitness (58230134) **8.00** Irene (84347164) **9.30-10.00** Zorro (60949562)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (24454) **8.00** Motors (43909) **9.00** Skiing (15638) **10.30** Rally Raid (45473) **11.00** Eurolun (7480102) **11.30** Skiing (2605247) **12.30pm** Snowboarding (94676) **1.30** Tennis (1846873) **5.00** Motorsports (5742) **6.00** Skiing (71386) **7.00** Boxing (80183) **8.00** Car on Ice (7251) **8.30** Rally Raid (6386) **9.00** Pro Wrestling (86367) **10.00** *Football (89454)* **11.00** *Athletics* (21367) **12.00-12.30am** Rally (93435)

SKY SPORTS

8.00am World Masters Cricket Final (18473) **12.30pm** World Sport (79298) **1.00** Tight Lines (66454) **2.00** Rugby Union (2947) **2.30** Nerbusters (81831) **3.30** The Rugby Club (13299) **4.30** World Sport (1560) **5.00** Wrestling Raw (5034) **6.00** Sports Centre (88218) **7.00** The Big League (77762270) **9.25** Sports Centre (108102) **9.30** World Darts (7198928) **10.00** Two's County (7596299) **10.30** Our House (6730560) **11.00** The Painted House (5114511) **11.30** Rapido (5115270) **12.00** Julia Child (6721812) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (7192744) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8264096) **1.30** Local Heroes (7191015) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (2618183) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1995947) **3.00** Two's County (2637218) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1867164)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (82671831) **7.30** Neighbours (8286218) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6720183) **8.30** EastEnders (6729454) **9.00** The Bill (67430341) **9.30** The Sullivans (7190386) **10.00** Bergerac (8275102) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8262838) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6723270) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7194102) **1.00** EastEnders (8266454) **1.30** The Bill (7193473) **2.00** The Sullivans (613522999) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2564102) **3.00** *Angels* (2639675) **3.30** Eldorado (1969522) **4.00** Casualty (35743893) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (77643270) **6.15** Penny's Comic Cuts (8009386) **6.25** EastEnders (8599580) **7.00** Eldorado (2621657) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1976270) **8.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (49966577) **9.00** Widows (49986953) **10.00** The Bill (8924812) **10.35** Classic Sport (6333015) **11.35** Carron Confidential (1424541) **12.15am** Dr Who (2543955) **12.45** FILM: The Outfit (80180056) **2.30** Shopping at Night

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (78522) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (98454) **7.00** Ready Or Not (28541) **7.30** California Dreams (47676) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (93034) **8.30** Tiny TCC (55963676) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (49973893) **2.30** Jim Henson (2454) **3.00** Sonic (5812) **3.30** Pink Panther (4298) **4.00** California Dreams (6034) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (2218)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (56815522) **6.15** Blue (2085891) **6.45** Tourean Tee (93120015) **7.00** Betfink (7471096) **7.05** Grimmy (61382705) **7.45** Nickroon Breakfast (1334473) **9.00** Alvin (52763) **9.30** Pee-Wee (65725) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (26812) **11.00** Children's BBC (46676) **12.00** Magic School Bus (49299) **12.30pm** Grimmy (69541) **1.00** Global Guts (17164) **1.30** Visionaries (68812) **2.00** Children's BBC (19724) **3.00** The Wild Side Show (9096) **3.30** Mighty Max (1183) **4.00** Fish and Chips (9376) **4.30** Rugrats (9102) **5.00** Sister Sister (4541) **5.30** Max Glick (9134) **6.00** Ren (7367) **6.30** Pete and Pete (1947) **7.00** The Odyssey (4305) **7.30-8.00** Are You Afraid? (4201)



Peter O'Toole as Lawrence (Sky Movies Gold, 11.50pm)

Masters Cricket Final (10183) **11.00** Centre (36299) **12.00** The Big League (17961) **2.00-3.30am** World Masters Cricket (40145)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Trans World Sport (4124883) **8.00** *Sail Sailing (8262657)* **8.30** *Golf USA* (2625735) **10.30** Powerboat (6156873) **11.00** Trans World Sport (7716454) **12.00** The Coca-Cola Cricket Show (7418955) **12.30-2.00am** Futbol Mundial (31566?9)

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (7536928) **7.55** As the World Turns (8261947) **8.50** Peyton Place (43168?3) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7939386) **10.10-11.00** Another World (5822837)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (4730980) **5.00** The Bible (8245980) **6.00-7.00** Biography Michelangelo (5115015)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (9329654) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre **2.00** FILM: Snowbeast (9067416) **3.35-4.00** Hitchcock (50569771)

TLC

9.00am Painting (8741676) **9.30** Gardeners' World (8?3?3?) **10.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **10.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **11.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **11.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **12.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **12.30pm** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **1.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **1.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **2.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **2.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **3.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **3.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **4.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **4.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **5.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **5.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **6.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **6.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **7.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **7.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **8.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **8.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **9.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **9.30** Interiors (8?3?3?) **10.00** Dressed to Kill (8?3?3?) **10.30** Ready Steady Cook (8?3?3?) **11.00** Style Challenge (8?3?3?) **11.30** Interiors (8?3?3?)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1986286) **4.30** Lifeboat (1975183) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2632763) **5.30** Terra X (1999763) **6.00** Invention (1996676) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (7821788) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1976812) **8.00** Jurassica (4904299) **9.00** Wings (4917763) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4987522) **11.00-12.00** Islands of the Pacific (82744?3)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Creature of the Walking Dead (6988947) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (7188511) **2.00** The Saint (7586454) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2624744) **3.30** William Tell (1994218) **4.00** FILM: Konga (2628560) **6.00** Danger Man (1983102) **6.30** The Wild Wild West (7726134) **7.30** The Protectors (1970638) **8.00** The Saint (4991725) **9.00** UFO (4911586) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Crimes of Passion (5112163)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5634299) **7.00** Kilroy (9749831) **8.00** *Esther* (9377096) **8.30** Embroidery (9376367) **9.00** Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery (3208812) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2405725) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8449034) **11.00** *The Young and the* Restless (8851183) **11.55** Food and Drink (6483270) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7624580) **1.30** Crosswits (8439980) **2.00** Agony Hour (2027251) **3.00** Live at Three (1054912) **4.00** Intrusion UK (1699183) **4.30** Crosswits (3191744) **5.05** Lingo (82561164) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (1519947) **6.00** Bewitched (1508560) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (2108893) **7.05** Tastes of Wales (2951034) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (1019676) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (5139847) **9.00** FILM: Double Vision (8713636) **11.00-12.00** *Sex Life (1074676)*

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty (7657) **5.30** The Adventures of Tarzan (201947) **5.55** Batman (8449?8) **6.30** Catchphrase (7763) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (7893) **7.30** The Fall Guy (38947) **8.30** *Only When I Laugh (5676)* **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: A Guilty Thing Surprised (35657) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (38744) **11.00** Neon Rider (445?8) **12.00** The Fall Guy (82435) **1.00pm** Batman (41597) **1.30** Rhoda (65665) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (65705) **2.30** Neon Rider (21665) **3.30** Rhoda (82566) **4.00** Big Brother Jake (56068) **4.30-5.00** Black

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ATHLETICS 37

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF BRITISH RUNNERS

SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1996

2W

RUGBY UNION 38

FRANCE SHUFFLE THE PACK FOR ENGLAND MATCH

Robson heads England wanted list as hunt narrows



Kelly: wants Englishman

Rob Hughes believes that realistic contenders to succeed Terry Venables are thin on the ground

THE morning after Terry Venables gave notice to the Football Association that he will give up the England coaching job in June, the serious business of securing a successor began. In essence, the FA wants a clone of the incumbent, preferably a Venables Mark II with clean hands when it comes to courts, vendettas and litigation.

Listening yesterday to the musings of Graham Kelly, the chief executive and the only senior figure guaranteed to be in position when the changeover takes place, one is *closer to envisaging the wanted* advertisement. It must, it seems, be an Englishman.

"We would hope we have an ideal candidate who is English and has played international football for England," Kelly said. That, at a stroke, rules out Howard Wilkinson, *Ron Atkinson, Roy Evans ...* and Johan Cruyff, whose soured relationships at Barcelona indicate that he may be a free agent at the moment that England needs a new coach.

In addition, there is no question of *the FA moving old bones with* sufficient speed to elect its new chairman before they elect the man who will work for him. Thus Sir Bert Millichip, scheduled to retire at *82 in the same hour that Venables* goes voluntarily, will be the key man with the casting vote on the small committee that is now surveying the field of likely candidates.

Sir Bert did not attend the press conference announcing Venables's decision — neither, for that matter, did Venables — but the old gentleman, together with Kelly, Noel White and *Jimmy Armfield*, who is again to be deployed as headhunter, will be at the heart of the selection process.

Continuity is a priority. The FA, those outside *the members whom* Venables alluded to as being "wobbly" when he needed strong support, is convinced that the Venables methods of training and selection *are the way forward. Given that* Kelly would like the appointment before the European championship begins and that Lancaster Gate envisions the *new man working inside the camp by then, the options* narrow dramatically.

There is admiration for the way Venables has thought of the future, for his induction into the coaching *team at Bisham Abbey of Bryan* Robson, who not only played for England 90 times but was their Captain Marvel, and for *Ray Wilkins*, who, under Dave Sexton, has coached the under-21s. *Apprentices* in the managerial game they may be, yet their supporters will point to the fact that Franz Beckenbauer led Germany to win the World Cup *without having managed at club* level. Robson, apparently with an escape clause permitting his release from Middlesbrough should England call, is therefore the new *favourite and Venables has already* offered him any help or advice he can give.

This notion of the new man working alongside the European effort, has dangerous connotations. Imagine if Kevin Keegan, who appeared to rule himself out yesterday, or Gerry Francis, the two most likely club managers, were invited to take what Venables initially described as football's "major honour". What if either of them felt Venables's decision to build the squad around the fragile Gascoigne was inappropriate? What if Keegan were to prefer Ferdinand, with his extra pace and leaping power, to Shearer? What if either felt Le Tissier had not been given a fair *chance when his form was the most* creative in England? What if they felt that McManaman, one of the young bloods put into the England side by Venables, was wasted by *being obliged to patrol the left flank?*

All legitimate questions, surely. Football is a subjective game, but, if an outsider were to come in before Euro '96 and were not to be this clone of Venables, then his views might actually be harmful to the immediate purpose of England doing as well as possible in the tournament this summer.

We should all, pleads the FA, get behind Venables in his final months as England saviour. David Davies, the director of public affairs, was making that request inside Lancaster Gate on Wednesday, at the very time that Venables was departing by a rear entrance.

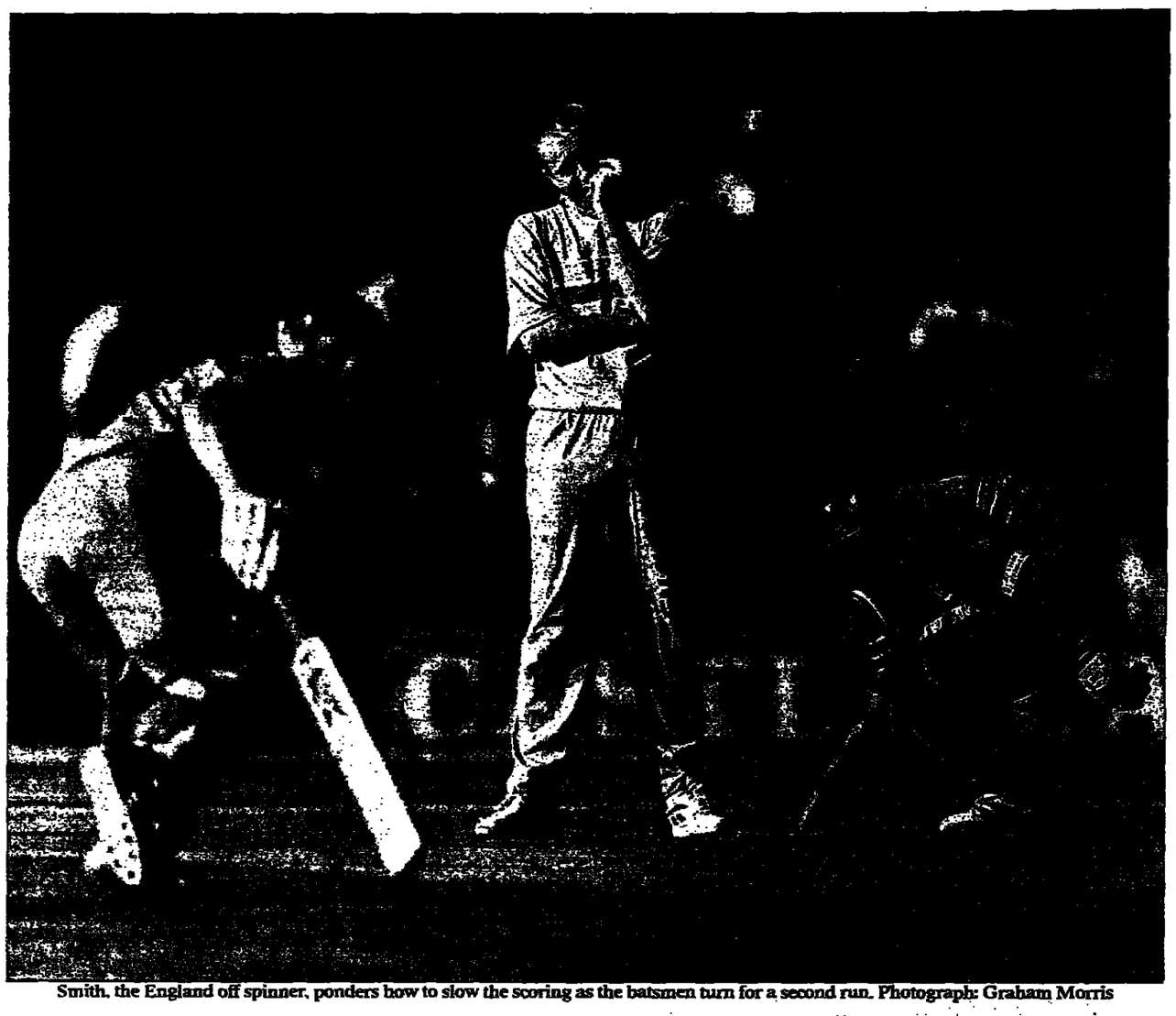
His company Jaguar slipped away beneath the electronic gate, *the rest of the press photographers* surprised and stranded, while his passenger was a journalist from a popular newspaper to whom Venables had revealed his intent *even* before it was confirmed to his employers.

As I feared, no matter how credible his work with footballers, the England coach has become a divisive figure.

Leading article, page 17
Homework for Keegan, page 36
Russians welcomed, page 36

England draw level in series

Hick onslaught paves way for dash to victory



Smith, the England off spinner, ponders how to slow the scoring as the batsmen turn for a second run. Photograph: Graham Morris

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BLOEMFONTEIN

BLOEMFONTEIN (South Africa won toss): England beat South Africa by five wickets

ENGLAND'S cricketers lifted themselves out of their trough of despair by successfully chasing a target of 263 to win the second one-day international against South Africa here last night. The win, with nine balls to spare, was their first over the full South Africa side on the tour and the first time they had won batting second under floodlights since the World Cup four years ago.

The England match-winner was Graeme Hick, who set them on the way to their target with a scintillating 55 from 42 balls, having earlier taken two wickets and conceded only 38 runs in his ten overs in conditions that heavily favoured the batsmen.

Once again, England were indebted to Michael Atherton, whose 85 from 110 balls took them to within 65 of their target and won him the man-of-the-match award. He also captained his side in the field more astutely than in losing the first match in Cape Town. He and his bowlers were under severe pressure after South Africa got away to a flying start and they managed to pull the situation round.

Graham Thorpe also played an invaluable innings. He shared a partnership of 90 in 17 overs with Atherton and held firm when Ramprakash and Fairbrother were subsequently out in quick succession. Ramprakash had another miserable experience, run out brilliantly by Rhodes for only a single after three noughts in succession.

Thorpe, who hit the winning runs and finished with 72 from 85 balls, was helped in the closing stages by Stewart, who dropped down the order. England made another change in strategy to play six specialist batsmen at the expense of an all-rounder. Reeve, and the move was vital to the outcome.

England's task was not made easier by floodlight failure during the 24th over of their innings, halting play for 40 minutes.

Things could barely have gone worse for England in the early stages. On a day of sweltering heat, they again lost the toss, which condemned them to bowling and fielding during the hottest period of the match. This played its part in their descent into raggedness and confusion after DeFreitas and Cork had experienced luckless opening spells, but the main cause was the clean hitting of Snell.

With Hudson also in fluent touch, the score was 82 for no wicket when the first 15 overs were complete. A total of 300 looked more probable than possible. Martin and White sustained the most severe punishment. Martin's first two overs costing 21, White's first three 20.

The flood of runs was stemmed by England's two slow bowlers, Smith, who flighted the ball expertly, and Hick, who broke the opening partnership of 116 in 23 overs by removing Snell for a career-best 63. Later, he dismissed Hudson, but, by then, McMillan had established himself through some outrageous improvisation.

It was Martin's removal of McMillan for 44 in an accurate spell that set South Africa off on an unconvincing search for an unbeatable total and made them rue the absence of Cullinan, who pulled out of *the match at the eleventh hour* with a strained calf.

Initially, Kallis and Cronje kept the score moving, but Cronje's slogging was so rustic that it was likely to be short-lived. When he heaved and missed at a straight ball from Cork, it started a collapse that saw five wickets fall in the space of 23 balls. In the end, South Africa had to be content with a total of 262 for eight and England had accomplished a worthy recovery.

Most heartening was the way Cork and Smith, in only his second match for his country, bowled at the death. Smith never lost composure and was rewarded with his first wickets, those of Kallis and Pollock.

England sent in DeFreitas to open with Atherton and he worked to his brief well, briskly striking 17 runs before a lofted cover drive located Rhodes.

Hick strode to the wicket at 37 for one in the seventh over and calmly proceeded to increase his side's scoring rate with a stream of boundaries against Snell, McMillan and Donald, whose first three balls he struck for fours.

In a frenetic half-hour, 50 runs were added of which Hick's share was 43. Shortly afterwards, he reached his fifty off just 33 balls, with nine fours and a six.

SCOREBOARD AND FIGURES

South Africa

A C Hudson c Stewart b Hick (120min, 97 balls, 5 fours)	64
R P Snell c Fairbrother b Hick (84min, 65 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)	63
B M McMillan b Martin (65min, 54 balls, 4 fours)	44
J H Kallis c Hick b Smith (53min, 35 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)	29
*W J Cronje b Cork (17min, 18 balls, 1 six, 1 four)	19
J N Rhodes b Cork (13min, 6 balls)	4
G Kirsten c Fairbrother b Cork (5min, 3 balls)	2
S M Pollock c Ramprakash b Smith (9min, 5 balls)	5
†D J Richardson not out (17min, 10 balls)	13
N Boje not out (9min, 7 balls)	2
Extras (b 6, lb 4, w 7)	17
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs, 200min)	262
A A Donald did not bat	

FALL OF WICKETS 1-116 (Hudson 47), 2-164 (McMillan 30), 3-197 (Kallis 19), 4-226 (Kallis 28), 5-228 (Rhodes 1), 6-236 (Rhodes 4), 7-237 (Pollock 1), 8-248 (Richardson 6)

BOWLING: Cork 10-0-44-3 (w 4, 4-0-15-0, 4-0-22-0, 2-0-7-3), DeFreitas 8-0-30-0 (5-0-23-0, 1-0-7-0), White 6-0-37-0 (3-0-20-0, 3-0-17-0), Martin 6-0-43-1 (w 1; 1-0-7-0, 1-0-14-0, 3-0-20-1, 1-0-2-0), Smith 10-0-46-2 (7-0-27-0, 3-0-19-2), Hick 10-0-38-2 (w 2, 7-0-25-1, 3-0-13-1), Ramprakash 2-0-14-0 (one spell)

ENGLAND

P A J DeFreitas c Rhodes b Pollock (24min, 19 balls, 2 fours)	17
*M A Atherton c Cronje b Pollock (149min, 110 balls, 5 fours)	85
G A Hick lbw b Cronje (56min, 42 balls, 1 six, 9 fours)	55
G P Thorpe not out (123min, 85 balls, 5 fours)	72
M R Ramprakash run out (Rhodes) (6min, 4 balls)	1
N H Fairbrother c Rhodes b McMillan (25min, 16 balls, 1 four)	12
†A J Stewart not out (25min, 16 balls, 1 four)	13
Extras (lb 4, w 5, nb 1)	10
Total (5 wkts, 48.2 overs, 207min)	265

C White, D G Cork, N M K Smith and P J Martin did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37 (Atherton 18), 2-108 (Atherton 32), 3-196 (Thorpe 36), 4-200 (Thorpe 35), 5-223 (Thorpe 46).

BOWLING: Pollock 9.2-0-48-2 (nb 1, w 1; 6-0-24-1, 2-0-9-1, 1.2-0-16-0); Snell 6-0-39-0 (w 2; 6-0-34-0, 1-0-5-0); McMillan 7-0-46-1 (nb 1; 3-0-27-0, 4-0-19-1); Donald 10-1-44-0 (6-1-29-0, 2-0-6-0, 2-0-9-0); Cronje 7-0-32-1 (4-0-14-1, 2-0-10-0, 1-0-8-0); Kallis 5-0-27-0 (w 1; one spell); Boje 4-0-25-0 (w 1, one spell).

England won by five wickets.

Match award: M A Atherton.

Umpires: W Diedricks and R E Koertzen.

Referee: C W Smith (West Indies).

SERIES DETAILS

Jan 9: Cape Town: South Africa won by six runs.

MATCHES TO COME

Jan 13: Johannesburg
Jan 14: Pretoria
Jan 17: Durban
Jan 19: day-night, East London
Jan 21: Port Elizabeth

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Science applied to suspect action

BY PAT GIBSON

THE cricket world was in a spin yesterday after a Hong Kong-based professor had been called in to decide "once and for all" whether Muttiah Muralitharan, the controversial Sri Lanka off spinner, is a chucker or not.

Muralitharan, who was born with a bent arm, has been no-balled for throwing *14 times in two matches by* two Australian umpires, Darrell Hair and Ross Emerson, yet, in a third match, umpire Terry Prue could not see anything wrong with his action. To complicate the issue further, Emerson even no-balled Muralitharan when he switched to bowling leg breaks, which is thought to be physically impossible if the ball is being thrown.

Now Ajith Perera, a former Sri Lankan umpire who successfully lobbied to clear his country's name when they were accused of tampering with the ball during the first Test against Australia at Perth, says that the issue can be resolved scientifically by attaching electrodes to Muralitharan's elbow to transmit three-dimensional pictures of the angle of the arm during delivery.

Dr Ravi Goonetilleke, a Sri Lankan professor working in Hong Kong, would then be able to download the pictures into a computer and show



Muralitharan's action has aroused controversy

categorically whether there is any straightening of the arm just before the ball leaves the hand, which is illegal under the laws of cricket.

The problem with all this is that even the most notorious chuckers in the game's history did not throw every ball. They only did it when they were striving for extra pace, like Ian Meckiff, of Australia, who was no-balled for throwing *four times in one over and* never played first-class cricket again, or when they were extracting the most vicious spin, like Tony Lock, of England, who was horrified to see a film of himself and refined his action.

Are umpires to be equipped with laptops so that they can monitor every delivery? Can computers be programmed to adjudicate on whether a batsman is out leg-before?

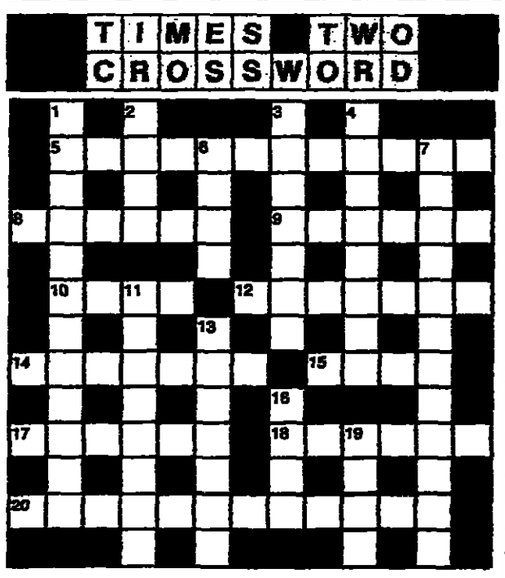
Fortunately, it should not come to that. The International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's ruling body, has turned down Sri Lanka's request for a final ruling on Muralitharan's action because it would be tantamount to instructing umpires not to no-ball him and so give him licence to do what he likes.

"That is not what the game is all about," David Richards, the ICC chief executive, said. "We have said that it is the Sri Lankan board's responsibility to make a decision on his future selection and whatever corrective action, if any, is needed. If this kind of testing helps them to make a decision, then so be it."

According to the laws: "A ball shall be deemed to have been thrown if, in the opinion of either umpire, the process of straightening the bowling arm, whether it be partial or complete, takes place during that part of the delivery swing which directly precedes the ball leaving the hand. This *definition shall not debar a* bowler from the use of the wrist in the delivery swing."

There is another law, however, which does not need a *computer to unravel it. It* says: "The umpires shall be the sole judges of fair and unfair play."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 676

ACROSS

5 Working after installation (2,3,7)
8 Symbolic device (6)
9 Fame (6)
10 Beau, Ogden — (4)
12 Six-sided figure (7)
14 Get back; get better (7)
15 Jerome —, song-writer (4)
17 Gracefully slim (6)
18 Breathe out (6)
20 Indirect effect; recoil (12)

DOWN

1 Overcome tactically (12)
2 Become uninteresting (4)
3 Mercy; a fraction (7)
4 Overwhelm, swamp (8)
6 Hemispherical top (4)
7 E Canada island (12)
11 Top of arm; bear (8)
13 Justification; resistance to attack (7)
16 King of (Greek) gods (4)
19 Greetings; falling stones (4)

The solution to 675 will be published Wednesday, January 17

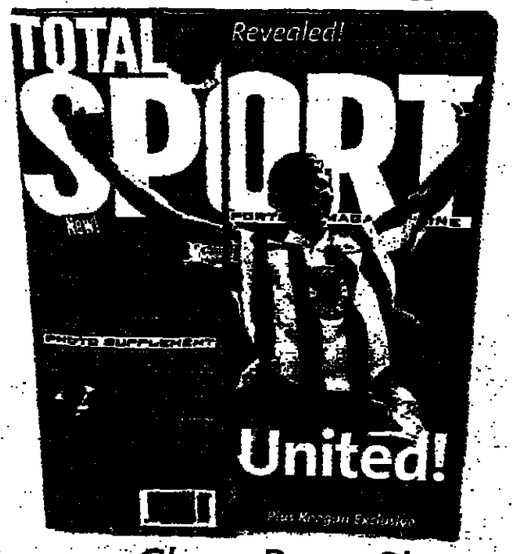
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Clintons 'facing bankruptcy' over huge legal bills

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT and Mrs Clinton's huge legal costs have put them "on a collision course with bankruptcy", a leading American financial publication reported yesterday.

The Clintons have so far run up more than $2.1 million (£1.36 million) in lawyers' bills while fighting Whitewater charges and the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, said *Money* magazine.

However, their legal defence fund — which cannot actively solicit contributions — has raised only about $865,000, and their net worth of nearly $700,000 in 1992 was now nearly zero. Were it not for the defence fund and the forbearance of their $400-an-hour lawyers, "the First Family could be broke already", the magazine concluded.

"The legal bills are killing them," said one presidential adviser, but the magazine did note that the Clintons would have great earning power after leaving office.

Mr Clinton was last night preparing to defend his embattled wife at his first full-scale White House press conference since last August. Tonight, he flies to Bosnia for a high-profile visit to US troops that the White House hopes will divert attention from the controversies presently engulfing Mrs Clinton.

A new CBS television poll showed the number of Americans who regard the First Lady favourably had dropped from 59 to 47 per cent in a week, and respondents, by 49 to 29 per cent, believed she participated in a Whitewater cover-up. Analysts suggested she was becoming a liability to her husband as he embarks on his re-election campaign.

The Senate Whitewater committee was yesterday grilling one of her former colleagues at Little Rock's Rose Law Firm in a bid to resolve conflicting accounts of how much work she did for the corrupt bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair whose owner was the Clintons' business partner.

Mrs Clinton has said it was not she but the colleague, Richard Massey, who secured the bank as a client, but Mr Massey told the televised hearings he could not recall the precise circumstances.

At the same time, new documents surfaced to bolster an assertion by David Watkins, a former White House aide, that Mrs Clinton personally ordered the unwarranted sacking of the seven-man travel office in 1993. This directly contradicted her claim that she had no role.

The new documents included a chronology of events prepared by Thomas "Mack" McLarty, then White House Chief of Staff. "May 16 — HRC pressure," he wrote three days before the dismissals.

Six of the travel office employees were later exonerated and reinstated. The seventh, Billy Dale, lost his job and spent $500,000 on legal fees before a jury took less than two hours to acquit him of embezzlement. Republicans say the episode destroys Mr Clinton's claim to be the champion of ordinary Americans who work hard and play by the rules.

In an interview being broadcast tonight, Mrs Clinton puts on a brave face. "Occasionally I get a little distressed, a little sad, a little angry, irritated," she says. "That's only natural. But I know that's part of the territory and we'll keep ploughing through and trying to get to the end of this."



Trent Strader, 40, gestures towards his lawyer during a hearing in a Las Vegas court, where he was charged with the murder of a British tourist. James Smith, 69, of Prestwick, Ayrshire, was stabbed to death in the main street last week

Blizzard whips up Washington shopping frenzy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON returned to a semblance of normality yesterday for the first time in four weeks as federal workers went back to their offices and the deepest snowdrifts started to melt.

But beneath this veneer, chaos continued to reign in the American capital and any celebration among its workaholic population was short-lived as the National Weather Service predicted another blizzard and more heavy snow last night. The shutdown, caused by the budget impasse and then the storm, may be in effect once more today.

A stampede for the shops had started earlier, with reports of ugly battles in the aisles at better stocked supermarkets throughout the city after snowbound Washingtonians went in search of food for the first time in days.

The usually polite and orderly check-out queues became scenes of unseemly disputes and some shoppers said they had gone home empty-handed.

"Not in my 21 years working here have I seen anything resembling this," said Rick Makely, manager of the Giant supermarket in West Springfield. "It is frenzied. The customers' patience has obviously worn thin. They're fighting over loaves of bread and fruit."

Even the ordered food halls of the "social" Safeway in middle-class Georgetown resembled a go-kart track as residents, frustrated by being confined to their homes and the inability to shop for groceries, careered their shopping trolleys around the aisles. The latest weather forecast also appeared to have upset Washington's emergency services, all of whom were bickering over an apparent inability to clear the capital's streets of snow. Marion Barry, the Mayor, gained a "sympathetic" response from the Clinton Administration after declaring a state of emergency and calling for federal assistance in road clearing.

What is becoming known as the First Blizzard of '96 is costing eastern states as much as $10 billion (£6.4 billion) in lost production and $7 billion in lost sales, according to estimates issued yesterday by DRI/McGraw Hill, the economic consultancy.

Winter may be only weeks old, but many states reported that their snow removal budgets for the year were already exhausted. Maryland said the storm could cost as much as $48 million and the clean-up in New York City is expected to run as high as $21 million in overtime and lost revenues.

Shifting drifts from the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey, the country's largest commuter toll road, required 500 workers, 4,900 tonnes of salt and more than 400 vehicles at a cost of $2 million.

The brief break in the weather did allow rangers in Shenandoah National Park to rescue three men and their children from a cabin buried under snow. It had taken them two days by snowplough to reach the six.

Last night, weathermen were forecasting a major storm early next week that could again close airports in the region.

First Lady tries to turn over new leaf

BY TOM RHODES

THE truth according to Hillary Clinton is one of soft-focus motherhood, of breastfeeding and schooling, religious service and family values. In short, the book obscured by the latest round of Whitewater allegations offers a self-portrait markedly at odds with the image of a First Lady branded a congenital liar.

She reminisces fondly about her grandfather's anecdotes of childhood among the lace mills of Co Durham, provides a charming vignette of a two-year-old Chelsea biting her inattentive father on the nose, explains how the couple visited a fertility clinic in their impatience to have a child and even intimates how close they have come to divorce.

This is surely not the same Hillary Clinton who hid details of her work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater scandal, the woman accused of lying to federal investigators or the First Lady involved in the firing of White House travel office staff?

Indeed, *It Takes a Village, And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, named after an African proverb and the first volume from the pen of Mrs Clinton which arrived on America's bookshelves yesterday, had been designed to counterbalance an image as hot-tempered harridan and prepare the way for her husband's re-election. Mrs Clinton is unlikely to view a forthcoming book tour through the moral heartland of America with much relish.

Each story reveals not an ambitious lawyer wishing to crown herself effectively as Vice-President, but an engaging, level-headed woman who has spent a lifetime focusing on the needs of children, in particular those of her daughter.

"I have spent much of the past 25 years working to improve the lives of children," she writes. "But no experience brought home the lesson as vividly as becoming a mother myself. When Chelsea Victoria Clinton lay in my arms for the first time, I was overwhelmed by the love and responsibility I felt for her."

Armed robber 'runs phone con trick' from US jail

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A PRISON inmate in New York blew officials a spectacular "Bronx cheer" (raspberry) by allegedly using a jail telephone to run a confidence trick.

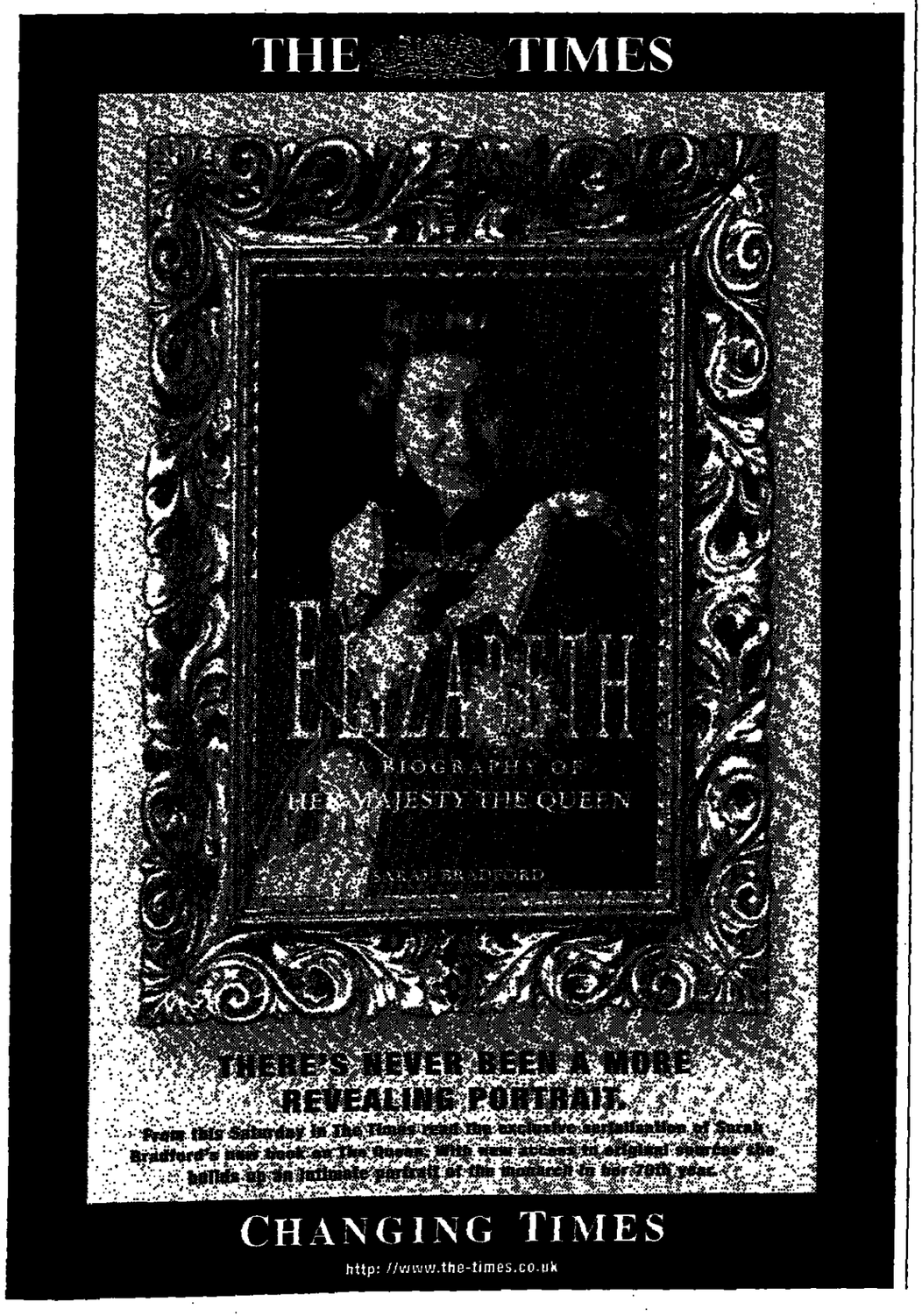
Raymond Sanabria, 31, an armed robber, used a public telephone at Rikers Island jail. Telephones are provided for inmates to talk to relations and lawyers, but Sanabria is accused of dialling random numbers instead. Posing as a policeman, he apparently told whoever answered that a family member had been arrested and that bail should be posted at once. Victims of the sting were instructed to wire money to a Western Union office where an accomplice was waiting, say prosecutors. The confidence trick, conducted over several months, brought in $23,000 (£14,900).

Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, said that Sanabria was astonishingly plausible, so fluent "he could have been a successful trial lawyer". A police witness said the accused had missed his vocation as a telesales executive. Sanabria's silken patter also had an impact on his personal life: one of his potential victims was a husky-voiced young woman with whom Sanabria conducted a telephonic romance. They wed recently in the Rikers Island chapel.

Sanabria, accused of grand larceny and criminal impersonation, faces a maximum sentence of 80 years for the sting, to be added to the 25 years he may receive for armed robbery when he is sentenced.

☐ **Yreka:** A Californian woman who pleaded guilty to setting brush fires in July to create work for her firefighter son was sentenced to 120 days in jail.

Judge Roger Kosel also sentenced Charmian Glassman, 60, of Mount Shasta to five years' probation and ordered her to pay restitution to the California Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service. *(AP)*



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Patten challenges Peking to set up democratic council

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHRIS PATTEN, Hong Kong's Governor, yesterday challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council here and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law.

Earlier, British officials in Peking had enthused about an improvement in Sino-British relations after three days of talks between Malcolm Rifkind, *the Foreign Secretary*, and Chinese ministers. It was difficult to see, however, what had been achieved.

Despite the high hopes raised by Mr Rifkind's first visit to China, and the gloss he put on his meetings with Li Peng, *the Prime Minister*, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, it was clear last night that *little progress had* been made on the two main points at issue: the retention of the Legislative Council after the transfer of sovereignty in *June 1997, and a greater role* for Mr Patten.

The point was reinforced yesterday when Mr Qian said that abolition of the Legislative Council in 1997 was not negotiable.

Mr Patten, meanwhile, speaking on Hong Kong's government radio station, questioned whether Peking intended to set up a fairly elected *legislative body* or "a cardboard cut-out, or a counterfeit".

The remark will outrage Peking, which describes Mr *Patten's constitutional* changes, including the elected council, as a violation of *British-Chinese* agreements on the political structure of the colony in the run-up to 1997. Peking says it will establish a "provisional council" on July 1, 1997, and hold elections for a substitute body at a later date.

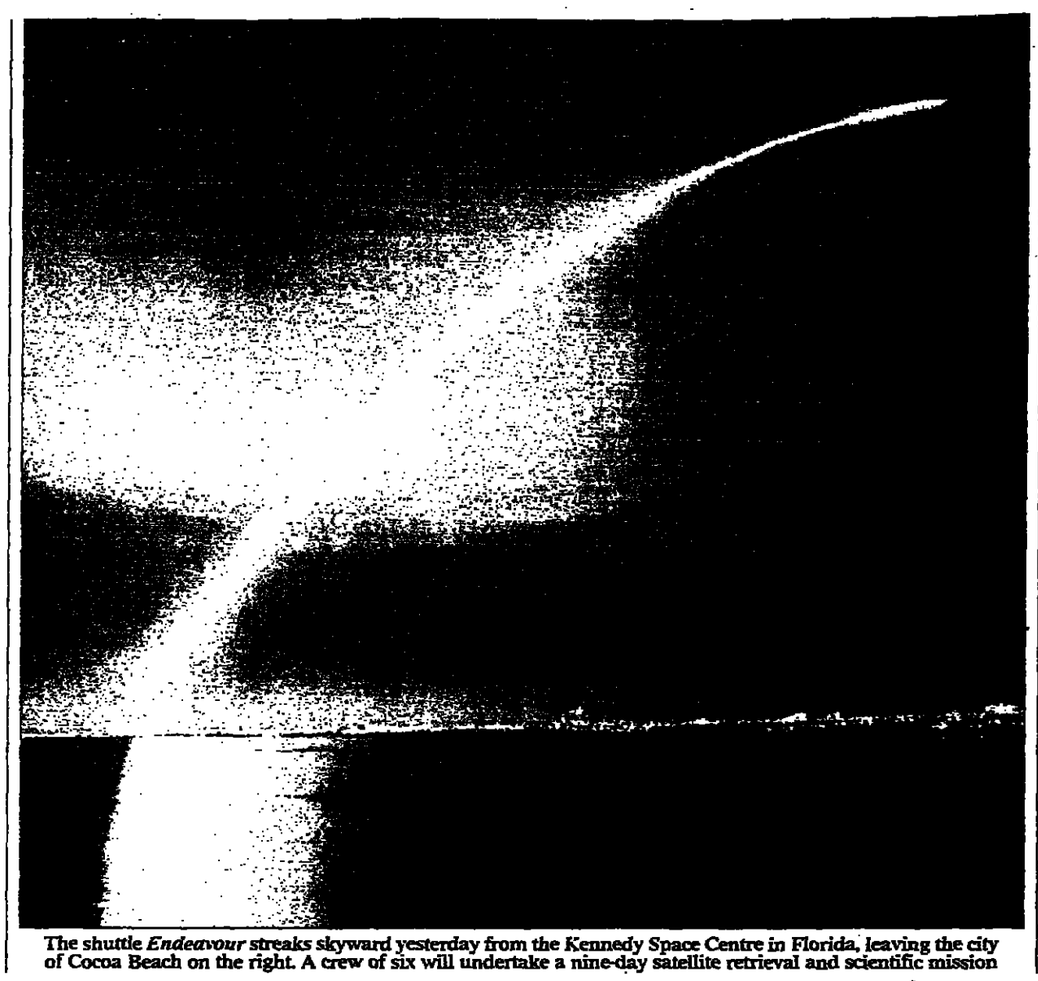
On the question of raising important issues, Mr Patten said: "I will continue to speak up for the rule of law and freedom of speech." He said he intended, courteously, to continue to debate political matters with the Chinese, insisting that acquiescence would mean "breaking promises to the people of Hong Kong".

After what Mr Rifkind described as a "substantive" 70-minute meeting with *President* Jiang Zemin — 30 minutes longer than scheduled — he told reporters: "I was pleased to hear him give repeated emphasis to the importance China attached for the autonomy of Hong Kong and its determination to respect that autonomy."

Asked about the Legislative Council, Mr Rifkind said: "That position has not changed . . . I believe it would be of considerable damage to confidence in Hong Kong if the council was dismantled and we hope the Chinese *Government will reflect on* that matter".

☐ **Bush plea:** The former US President George Bush has called for a new dialogue with China. Talking in Hong Kong after meeting Chinese leaders in Peking, he warned against *American isolationism* as China develops into a world power. (*AFP*)

Letters, page 17



The shuttle *Endeavour* streaks skyward yesterday from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, leaving the city of Cocoa Beach on the right. A crew of six will undertake a nine-day satellite retrieval and scientific mission

Dissident warns of threat to Dominica

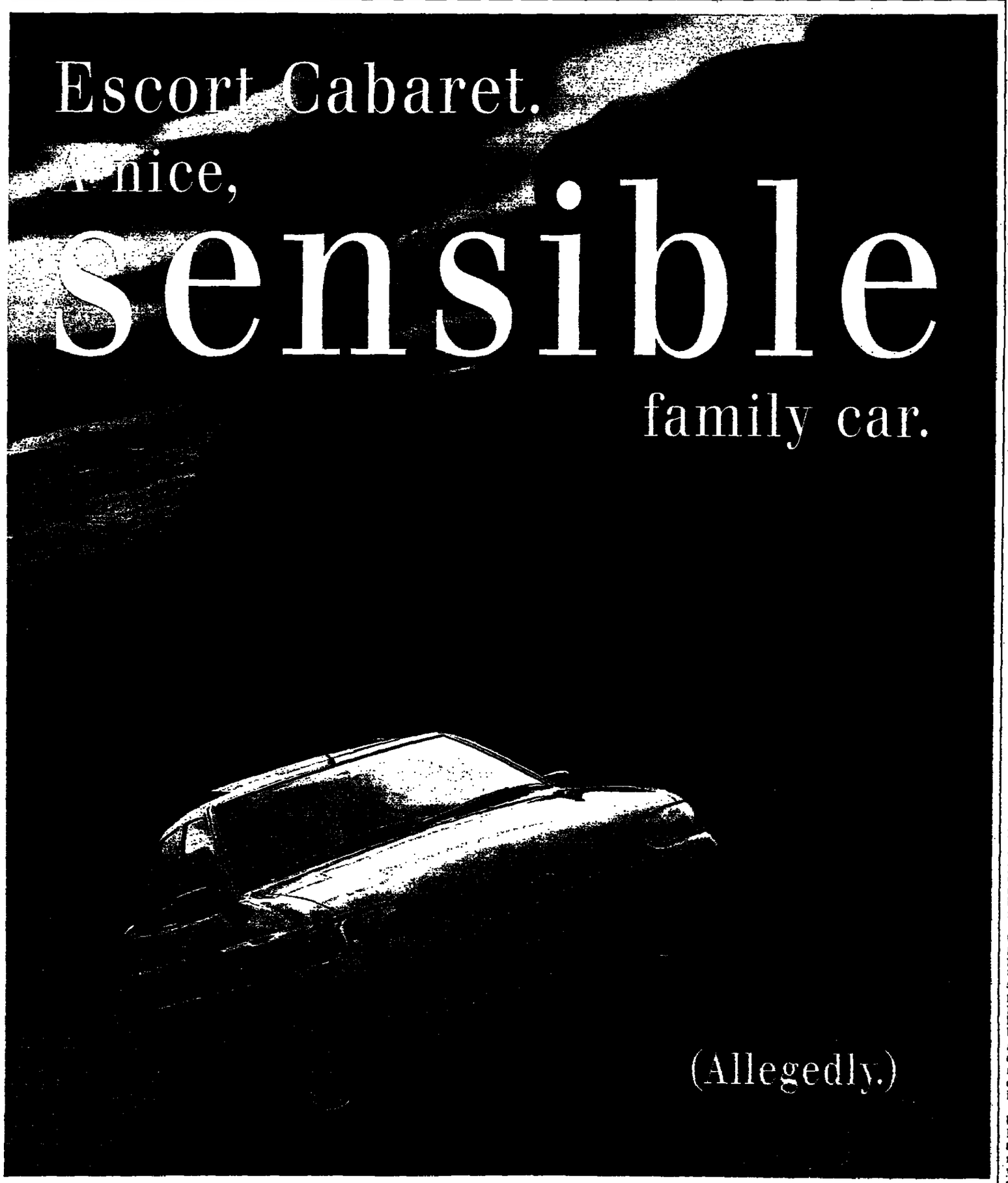
BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Saudi dissident, Dr Muhammad al-Masari, facing deportation from Britain, gave a warning yesterday that his arrival in Dominica would endanger safety on the Caribbean island.

Speaking shortly after handing in his appeal papers contesting the order by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Dr Masari said he fully agreed with Rosi Douglas, the opposition leader in Dominica, that his presence on the island would be a threat to its safety. He said Dominica had only 300 police, who could not stop a mercenary force of 50 to 60 people who might be sent to eliminate him.

"The country is simply too small," Dr Masari said. He had discussed the issue with Mr Douglas during his visit to Britain on Tuesday and noted that the opposition would move a vote of no-confidence in the island's Government.

Dr Masari, an Islamic activist, also denied a report in today's *Jewish Chronicle* that he had links with an Islamic group in Britain which had threatened Jewish students.



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†Not available on 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo Diesel. ††Standard only on 1.6i. *On the road price includes Recommended Retail Price, delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs of number plates and fuel. Vehicle shown - Escort Cabaret 1.6i. Also available Escort Cabaret 1.8 Turbo Diesel - £12,500 on the road.

Socialists take on Tokyo's poisoned finance chalice

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN announced a conservative-dominated Cabinet yesterday under Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Prime Minister, with key posts for the Liberal Democratic Party and finance going to the Socialists.

The post of Finance Minister has always been regarded as one of the most powerful positions. However, recent financial scandals and problems, including a government plan to use nearly 700 billion yen (£4 billion) in taxpayers' money to liquidate financially troubled housing loan firms, has taken the lustre off the portfolio.

Mr Hashimoto is known to have offered the post to numerous senior LDP politicians, but they all turned it down. The Liberal Democrats have taken on the key posts of home affairs and defence.

The strategic block of parliamentary votes held by the Socialists ensured the party a strong representation in the previous coalition administration. The portfolios of finance and defence were regarded as too sensitive to be given to the party.

Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialist Party, agreed to take the finance post, reportedly on the basis that he will also serve as Deputy *Prime Minister*.

Mr Hashimoto appointed Yukihiko Ikeda, a former Defence Minister and LDP colleague, as Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda will have to face the difficult task of handling Japan's relations with the United States, amid growing opposition from the southern island of Okinawa to the presence of US military bases.

Hashimoto victory seals tilt to Right

BY PAUL CARTER



Hashimoto: wants seat on the Security Council

THE election of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Liberal Democratic Party leader, as the Prime Minister of Japan consolidates *the success of right*-wing forces.

With the main opposition New Frontier Party led by Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP strongman, the political situation is akin to having Michael Portillo and John Redwood in *charge of the two main* parties in Britain.

This renewed entrenchment of the Right is extraordinary for, after the general election of July 1993, the 38-year period of continuous LDP rule ended and power was *assumed by an eight*-party coalition intent on changing the direction of politics and breaking what had become one-party dominated rule. What went wrong?

Part of the answer lies with the split in the LDP which precipitated the 1993 election, prompted by the younger members' impatience with the *septuagenarians* who ran the party. It was Mr Ozawa who passionately argued the need for change and initiated what became known as the *futsu no kuni* or "*normal country*" debate. To Mr Ozawa, "normal country" equates with one which can defend itself independently.

The strong-arm tactics and backroom defection deals of Mr Ozawa eventually led to the formation of the 170-member New Frontier Party which last year proved its ability as a credible fighting force when it won 54 of the 84 seats on offer in the Upper House elections. Since 1993 the Socialists have been bounced between coalitions like a political football, eventually forming an unusual alliance with the LDP under the temporary caretaker prime ministership of Tomiichi Murayama. During this time, to make their marriage to the LDP work and in the hope of engaging the electorate's trust, the Socialists recanted all of their key policies. After the resignation of Mr Murayama and the sidelining of the Socialists, the Right has again reasserted itself in government under Mr Hashimoto.

Moreover, now the leadership of the two main parties has skipped a generation, *Japanese politics is faced with* the relatively youthful Mr Hashimoto, aged 58, and Mr Ozawa, 53. The desire for change which led to the initial split of the LDP is still apparent, with both leaders being vocal in their support for Japan's claim of permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and both arguing for constitutional change.

With the Socialists sidelined a political scenario has arisen where two conservative parties vie for power. Mr Ozawa and the Right have clearly won the "*normal country*" debate. Whether this result was serendipitous or sheer Machiavellianism on the part of Mr Ozawa, the emergence of two main conservative parties and the expectation of high Socialist Party losses in the next election does raise fears about the legitimacy of a democracy whose opposition and governing party is represented by a conservative block with few if any balancing factors.

Paul Carter researches Japanese politics at the Centre for International Studies, University of Cambridge.

German economy renews fears over single currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

FRESH proof of trouble in the German economy yesterday increased a wave of pessimism that has spread this week through continental capitals over the prospects for achieving the launch of a single European currency.

Fears that Germany, the anchor of the planned currency, could fail to meet the conditions for entry in the economic and monetary union (EMU) sharpened with its report of a meagre 1.9 per cent growth last year and predictions by economists that worse would come this year.

Most embarrassing for Germany was the confirmation that it failed last year to live up to the Maastricht ceiling on budget deficits. Its shortfall was 3.6 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with a 3 per cent limit in the "Maastricht criteria".

On Monday, France reduced its official growth forecasts in the face of a slowdown, while some experts wrote off French hopes of meeting the "Maastricht criteria", the strict terms which must be achieved next year to qualify for EMU entry. "It is now certain that France will not be ready," *Libération*, the pro-European Paris daily newspaper, said yesterday. "Barring a miracle, the plan for passage to the single currency ... will not work."

Evidence of the downturn in France and Germany is heightening anxiety in the European Commission and ministries, where officials have been striving to keep up the confident front adopted in Madrid last month when European Union leaders baptised the euro currency and fixed the timetable for the EMU launch on January 1, 1999. It is becoming more likely that leaders will soon have to breach the taboo they imposed on themselves and review options for a delay beyond 1999.

Privately, even officials in federalist states acknowledge that a delay of a couple of years would relieve the pressure building everywhere, except in Luxembourg, as a result of the rush to the EMU deadline.

Supporters of the single currency could extract comfort from the publication yesterday of the Commission's annual survey of public opinion. This found that support for the EU had stopped falling over the past couple of years.

A European Commission survey shows that 65 per cent of Britons believe the pound will be replaced by the euro early next century. Monetary union is backed by 38 per cent and opposed by 55 per cent. The public were far less Euro-sceptical than their Government.



Russian soldiers move artillery up to the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday as Chechen guerrillas threatened to start killing their hostages

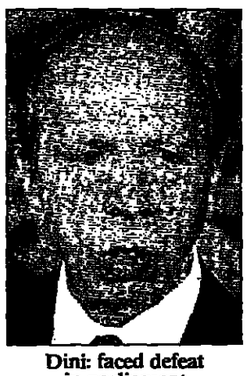
Russian police escape from Chechen captors

FROM CARLOTTA GALL
NEAR PERVOMAISKOYE

FOUR Russian special forces officers escaped last night from the village where they were among more than 100 hostages being held captive by Chechen guerrillas, Tass news agency reported.

Quoting the Russian Interior Ministry, it said that the four managed to make it back to the lines of Russian troops encircling Pervomaiskoye. The police, all members of Omon special forces, were among 37 seized by the guerrillas who were making their way back to Chechenia in buses after raiding the neighbouring town of Kizlyar. Earlier yesterday, a column of armoured personnel carriers and lorries moved towards the Dagestan village where the fighters and their captives have been halted. The Chechen fighters threatened to start shooting captives if the heavy armour went closer than 100 yards. Towards evening they and the hostages were dispersed among different houses. It emerged during the day that the Chechens were holding about 100 people from the village. Moscow security experts said the Russians were probably preparing to storm the buses. Casualties from three days of the crisis stand at more than 20 dead.

The Chechen rebel President, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, said that the hostage seizure could be the start of a terror campaign inside Russian territory.



Dini: faced defeat in parliament

Italian leader resigns again

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

LAMBERTO DINI, the Prime Minister of Italy, yesterday offered his resignation to President Scalfaro for the second time in a fortnight, deepening the political crisis marring the country's European Union presidency.

Signor Dini announced his decision at the end of a three-day debate in the lower house of parliament on the future of his Government of technocrats. He previously offered his resignation to President Scalfaro on December 30, fulfilling a promise he made to parliament last year.

The President refused to accept it and sent him back to parliament to see if he could secure a majority to carry on. But in the debate in the lower house, both the Centre-Right and extreme Left parties vowed to support a motion of no-confidence. Signor Dini evidently preferred to resign to avoid a humiliating defeat.

"The technical government over which I have presided has exhausted its duties," Signor Dini said to applause from MPs. "Now a new phase of political life can begin."

The public RAI television said the President might again refuse his offer of resignation and give Signor Dini an "exploratory mandate" to see whether he can form a new government.

Falklands claim not believed

London: Three-quarters of Argentinians do not believe that their country will win sovereignty over the Falkland Islands during the presidency of Carlos Menem, according to a poll commissioned by an Argentine think-tank (Michael Binyon writes).

The December poll of 1,000 people showed that 76 per cent believed President Menem would not gain sovereignty. He made this a central plank of his recent re-election campaign. The more educated the respondents, the less likely they were to believe him.

Andrew Gurr, Chief Executive of the Falklands Government, said the islanders knew that much of what was said about sovereignty was rhetoric, "but it is gratifying to note that this is seen as rhetoric by the Argentine people".

Atlanta danger

Washington: Atlanta, site of this year's Olympic Games, is the most dangerous American city in terms of crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, according to a private survey. *(Reuter)*

Journalist freed

Lagos: Nigeria has freed on bail a British journalist after charging him with possessing seditious material, diplomats said. Paul Adams, of the *Financial Times*, had been detained for a week. *(Reuter)*

Force allowed

Jerusalem: Israel's High Court of Justice decided to allow interrogators to use force against a Palestinian suspected of involvement in a bombing last year that killed 21 Israelis. *(Reuter)*

Angler bitten

Konakovo, Russia: When an angler celebrated catching a 28 in pike by giving it a kiss, it bit back. Its jaws stayed tightly locked on his nose, even after friends cut off its head, until doctors removed it. *(AP)*

Serb leaders speed Sarajevo exodus

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

SEPARATIST Bosnian Serbs, whose leadership has been threatening an exodus from Serb-held areas around Sarajevo, stepped up the pace of their departure yesterday, moving out their belongings, digging up relatives' remains and scorching the earth behind them.

On a hill above Grbavica from which Serb forces shelled the Bosnian capital, flames ripped through six homes that had been abandoned because of their proximity to the front line. "We weren't living there, but it's better that no one should have the house, no Muslim will get it," said Dragan, a Serb with a wife and baby.

In nearby Ilidza, the family of Obrad Popadic, the former commander of the hardline Ilidza brigade killed in May 1994, exhumed his remains. The fallen commander's wife stood wailing against a tree as the rotted coffin was raised from the earth and placed in a tin box.

"His body is going to go, but his spirit will stay here," said Igor Mijetovic, the commander's 28-year-old cousin. "We are leaving to go to Visegrad or Zvornik or somewhere in eastern Bosnia."

Roads leading out of the suburbs — Ilidza, Grbavica, Ilijas, Vogosca and Hadzici — are jammed with lorries brimming with household appliances and furniture. Cars are packed to the brim, with sofas and chairs tied to their roofs.

A feeling of hysteria, fuelled by propaganda from the embittered Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale, has taken hold across the five Serb-held suburbs due to revert to Bosnian government control under the terms of the Dayton peace accord.

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WORLD OF LEATHER

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THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Biographer Sarah Bradford hopes she's got into the Queen's mind

The Queen doesn't think of herself as 'winning hearts'

Sarah Bradford, alias Viscountess Bangor, publishes her new biography of the Queen in celebration of Her Majesty's seventieth birthday this spring. Forty years ago, as Sarah Malet Hayes, aged 17, she curtsied before the young Queen Elizabeth as one of the last debutantes, "filing past wearing a beige, grosgrain dress with guipure lace, long white gloves and an awful hat".

Now she is a grandmother, a tall, handsome woman of 57 with a patrician voice and an agreeable tendency to find things hilarious — "I laugh at almost everything, don't you? Doesn't one?" she says — supporter of Liverpool FC and author of five thorough, highly respected biographies on a variety of characterful subjects: Cesare Borgia, Benjamin Disraeli, Sacheverell Sitwell, Princess Grace of Monaco and George VI.

The George VI book ("a portrait of the late King which is lucid, convincing and admirably fair" — Philip Ziegler) went down very well with Her Majesty: a great help when undertaking this book. "The Queen doesn't read books much, except about the horses: but she kept George VI on a table by her desk, and, I'm told, didn't find any mistakes."

She was born in Bournemouth — "so dull" — in the bridge-playing set. "Father was a regular soldier, very clever, a great reader, introduced me to books; my mother's family were thick as planks. That side didn't expect me to do anything except marry someone with money — and a title, with luck."

She achieved the title by marrying in 1976 her second husband, William Ward, now Viscount Bangor, whose parents ran the Portobello Road antique shop called Trad. Lord Bangor operates his antiquarian bookselling business from home, hence the chill in the upper rooms of their small house at World's End, with its tiny garden where a nightingale sings at midnight.

While reading history at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she met her first husband and went off with him to Sardinia, Barbados ("a long way from Bournemouth") and the wild Douro Valley in Portugal. Here she wrote her first book, *The Englishman's Wine*, in 1969, still regarded as the standard work on port. "There was a terrific hoo-ha over a woman writing about port. I was like Dr Johnson's woman preacher." She was photographed in a glamorous Rive Gauche trouser suit, her hair in a beehive.

Then George Weidenfeld "butterfly-netted" her while she was staying with Ronald and Marietta Tree at their Tuscan villa, and a new career as a biographer began.

But it is one thing to spend weeks in university libraries in Austin, Boston or Tucson — "I adore archives and papers" — to discover, for instance, the late Sachie Sitwell's confessions of affairs in his diaries.



TIM GRAHAM

The Queen: "She doesn't court popularity"

Or to be told, of Princess Grace — "my teenage idol, the ice maiden" — by a producer friend at a party: "Do find out which of her leading men she *didn't* sleep with."

It is quite another to have to rely chiefly on the unpublished testimony of the royals' friends — and with your subject very much alive. By far the most enthralling hints, in her notes on sources and acknowledgements, are the words "private diaries", "private, unpublished memoir" and "private information". In the Queen's circle, she found, people make a frightful fuss about confidentiality, but will agree to talk if it is strictly confined to something like the fertility rates of the Queen's stud mares.

She embarked on the book in 1990 before the junior royal marriages began to dismantle or scandals erupt. Everything then seemed tickety-boo. "So much so that when I began, people would react as they did when I was writing George VI: 'Goodness, how dull.' But I was fascinated by it all — to find out how this incredibly important woman operates, what she's really like, how she thinks, the whole upstairs-downstairs thing. After George VI it seemed familiar ground, and I did get rather bitten by it.

"It isn't an everyday world in any way. The royals have their own role models, who tend to be their predecessors." The Queen inherited the dutiful, dignified mien of Queen Victoria, whose vow was "I will be good." Even as a small child she was disciplined, punctual and orderly. When she was two, Churchill noted, "She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant." She also inherited the "canine" looks (Bradford's apposite word) of her grandmother, May of Teck.

It was Queen Mary who decreed that royal ladies should not smile. "Too awful! Smiling!" she would comment if a regal smile were captured on camera. Hence her own severe mask. "I think the Queen Mother changed all that. She has a smiling sort of face, while the Queen, on some days, seems to be fixed in her Miss Piggy mode."

Her book is crammed with enthralling documentation: the Queen's letters to her uncle the Duke of Windsor, her invitations to him (minus Wallis), her arrangements for his widow. There is Lord Houghton's radical and far-sighted 1972 Select Committee report on the Civil List — highly critical of royal family members who did not justify their cost — which, had it been acted upon at the time, might have quelled the later fury over her immunity from tax.

There is the sad story of Crawfie, much of it from the Beaverbrook archive in the House of Lords, including the heartless letters from the *Sunday Express* editor John Gordon. "The *Express* papers were obsessed with royalty, although Beaverbrook wasn't keen on the Royal Family, and they weren't keen on him either. He had a real vendetta against Mountbatten."

Her Majesty's alleged disaffection with Mrs Thatcher, which caused such a fuss when leaked in *The Sunday Times*, was, Sarah Bradford found, well sourced. "Well, they don't like opening hospital wards and then having them shut, and Mrs Thatcher certainly was 'that woman'. They can't have had a single thing in common. The Queen would have approved of Thatcher's patriotism, but then she's very conservative with a small c. She is apolitical like her father, but gets on better with Labour prime ministers than with the Tory ones. She's very intuitive, very bright on politics."

Since Robert Lacey's *Majesty* book, 19 years ago, writing about royal lives has become commonplace, and an increasingly intrusive spotlight has been turned on them. To write with both authority and discretion remains tricky.

Rebecca West said that the monarchy is "a presentation of ourselves behaving well" but, as Ms Bradford says, when the Queen tried to preserve some kind of "normal" life for her children, they began to behave just like their contemporaries, and in some ways worse. So the overall picture of royal family life is not edifying: outsiders in the family get severely tested or frozen out. There is, Ms Bradford says, a naivety about the family's socialising: they end up making terrible connections with appalling people, "blinkered gentry living in Hampshire — that's their reality. They make marriages out of propinquity. You only have to live next to them in Norfolk. Nothing propinks like propinquity, as P.G. Wodehouse says.

"The smallness of the royal circle of friends is very striking. They have to get others to draw up lists of suitable people to be invited to their bigger parties. The Queen Mother is rather different: she takes her own initiative, she wasn't brought up royal, she's like a social lady of her time and class, which the Queen is not."

Gathered in one volume, the remorseless stream of family disasters in recent years, the galloping divorces, the taped telephone conversations with lovers — "what Julian Barnes called 'the sexual and marital tomfoolery of the Queen's whelps'" — the scandals surrounding embarrassing new in-laws such as Major Ronald Ferguson, the rumblings over paying taxes, the horrors of IRA madmen creating mayhem, such things might overwhelm a lesser woman. And it could not have happened to a more upright person. But Her Majesty stands aloof from it all, a still, small, imperturbable voice, carrying on. Only in her *annus horribilis* speech, delivered with a heavy cold, did she come near to expressing dismay.

Prince Charles, in Ms Bradford's view, is "obviously a sweet, goodnatured person, not as clever as he thinks he is, who has been spoiled by his entourage and undermined by his parents". Princess Margaret is bolstered by the Queen's support: "She understood the wilfulness, which was really the futile beatings of wings against the wall.

"Margaret has had a bad press as a spoilt, difficult, demanding woman," says Ms Bradford. "But she does have the most intelligent ladies-in-waiting, and that says a good deal for her, doesn't it?

"Not being allowed to marry Townsend — which might not have been a successful marriage in the end — and not being given a job all had a deleterious effect on her character really."

And so to the Queen's own marriage. Ms Bradford reasons: "How can you write in this day and age without discussing her marriage? Maybe one shouldn't. But to me it is valid. I did say to an old friend of hers, look: how should I handle it?", and he said, 'Well, all I can say is, if he has been unfaithful, it hasn't made any difference.' That's the key thing really."

Did she find herself treading in the tiny questing footsteps of Kitty Kelly? "No, because I think with her people really closed ranks, I gather.

"In Edward VII's day the whole point was not to divorce. A woman might expect a man to go messing about but not to treat her badly. Edward was extremely nice to Queen Alexandra, despite Mrs Keppel and Lillie Langtry. You treated your wife all the better if you were having an affair."

And she concludes: "Despite the fact that, as friends admit, 'he is a difficult man and the Queen finds him difficult', she adores him and defers to him, which seems all the more strange to observers in that everyone else defers to her."

She hopes she has managed to get inside the Queen's mind: "That's the whole point of being a biographer, to know why they think as they do. I do admire her very much — even though I don't go racing, I am not interested in horses, and I can't say we are the same sort of person." Her original conclusion had been that the Queen might be criticised for not interfering enough in her family's problems — "She cannot behave like Queen Victoria did with her children. Princess Anne would never marry the person of her mother's choice."

But, having finished the book last August, she has found, as other royal historians such as Elizabeth Longford found, that the story has changed almost daily. First came *Panorama* — "Diana setting out her stall, putting the blame on her husband, letting it be known she would not go quietly." And in Christmas week, just when Sarah was packing to go to Morocco, there was the Queen's letter suggesting that Charles and Diana divorce.

"This is in direct contrast to what the Palace had told me: that 'the Queen will not get involved'. I think she was particularly struck by Diana's saying that Charles was not fit to be a king. And her refusing to go to Sandringham was the final straw. Although the Queen doesn't want to take sides, in the end the monarchy comes first. Divorce has to happen sooner or later. I am glad she has acted. It is her job to look after the monarchy. I'm a monarchist too."

Sarah Bradford ended her six years of work with a strong liking for the Queen. "I find her totally admirable. And I think there is a lot of affection for her. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Princess of Wales may be the stars, the mega-celebrities. The Queen does not play that game. When outsiders come into the family they have to learn to wave and smile because people like it. The Queen doesn't think that way.

"She innately knows how to do the job. She does not court popularity. She does her duty. She is fascinated by people outside, and wants to know what's going on, but doesn't think of herself as 'winning hearts'. That's not her thing."



MARTIN BEDDALL

Sarah Bradford, biographer of George VI and the Queen, says: "I was fascinated by how this incredibly important woman operates, how she thinks"

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How much prestige is there in being in Who's Who? **Julia Llewellyn Smith** and **Giles Coren** find out from the great and the good

Who's in and who wanted out

Tom Jones was delighted to be asked. Lenny Henry and Gary Lineker were thrilled to accept. And Terry Venables was probably comforted to know that, whatever the England fans may think, *Who's Who 1996* considered him a winner.

Few people turn down an invitation to appear in the big, red book. There are 30,000 entries in the new *Who's Who*, each selected by a secret committee whose criteria are as mysterious as their identities.

However, not everyone is flattered to be approached. "For some reason, far more women than men never return their entry forms," says a *Who's Who* spokeswoman. "Most won't give their reasons, but a few will say, 'Oh no! I'm not important enough'." Women are not the only wallflowers. Other refuseniks include Tiny Rowland and Mick Jagger, who has been sulking ever since the 1960s when the Rolling Stones were in the first flush of their fame and asked their agent to demand an entry. "Good heavens, no!" was the reply. "Who knows, they might be barrow boys next week." Later that day the agent sent round a barrow full of flowers. When Mick Jagger was sent an invitation in 1986, he declined.

When the first remodelled *Who's Who* appeared in 1897, everyone accepted the invitation for entry that year except for Joseph Chamberlain and Lord Salisbury. W.S. Gilbert at first declined to supply his details but when the editor submitted for his approval an entry that read "W.S. Gilbert, journalist, writer of the libretti for Sir Arthur Sullivan's operas", Gilbert immediately completed the questionnaire.

Anne Robinson, the journalist and broadcaster, who was a new entry in 1995 says: "I was shamefully delighted to be asked. I filled in the entry form that they sent me, and thought to myself that this was true recognition for a woman in her own right. When they wrote back to me the name on the envelope was Mrs John Penrose.

"There is no good reason to refuse. You can say anything you like about personal details, like your age. I know several television personalities who used to be born the same year as me, but now seem to be six years younger."

Michael Dobbs, the author of *To Play the King*, was another 1995 entry. "Until 1994 I was ex-directory because I believed that it protected my privacy. But the media can always find you, and the only people I was being shielded from were my friends, the people I actually wanted to get in touch with me. So now I am in back in the phone book, and I gave all my details to *Who's Who*, including my home telephone number. A few years ago I suppose I might have been flattered to be asked but the book is so enormous now that it doesn't make you particularly special."

Germaine Greer has said: "Once when I was in Khartoum, I was grabbed by the presidential guard outside President Nimeiry's palace. I protested that I had an appointment with someone in the Government and was only trying to find him. They took me to an office where I was left waiting to be chucked out. *Who's Who* was on the official's desk. I asked him to look me up, hoping against hope I was in it. He smiled in disbelief but I insisted that he look up the name in my passport, and there I was! Suddenly, there was a reception committee, red carpet, drinks."

Ken Follett, the thriller writer and Labour Party groupie, has an entry for the first time this year. "Will critics treat me with a bit more respect now? I doubt it," he says. "It *is* kind of flattering, but it is a terribly snobby list. It is full of aristocrats who have never done a day's work in their lives. And MPs get in even if they are the laziest and most useless in the Commons.

"Its better to be in than out, I suppose. But it doesn't mean much. It is like an ornament on a mantelpiece: a nice thing to have, but of no real use. One good thing that may come of it is that journalists will be able to get my age right in future."



Michael Dobbs put his phone number in; Germaine Greer avoided arrest; Ken Follett prefers being in

Give a woman a good cigar

Marlene Dietrich and Catherine the Great loved it, and now **Quentin Letts** reports from America that a new generation of women are discovering the pleasures of cigar-smoking



KATZ

For husky-voiced, cheroot-chomping women, the bigger the better is the advice from the cigar lovers. Sales of quality cigars have leapt and more women are smoking them

THROATY Marlene Dietrich would have savoured the scene off Park Avenue, New York, the other Monday. It was dusk at the bar of the Waldorf Astoria, and raining Martinis. There must have been more than 300 people in the room, mostly thirtysomething good-lookings, with the women's necklines plunging, thighs flashing. And you know what? At least half were fingering long, sleek cigars.

The Waldorf party, which one could smell a block away, was held to celebrate the launch of *Smoke* magazine, a new glossy devoted to "cigars, pipes, and life's other burning desires". Its publication coincides with an astonishing growth in the American cigar market. Sales of good cigars rose by 32 per cent in the first six months of last year. But the one aspect which really has the tobacco world sucking on its stogies is the leap in female cigar smokers.

For years, Marlene Dietrich was the only cheroot-smoking woman people could name. At the turn of the century there had been Amy Lowell, the New England poet, Annie "get your gun" Oakley and the bank robber Bonnie Parker. They could point to the example of Catherine the Great, who found that a long, strong smoke helped her through the St Petersburg winters. But in more recent times, while it was not uncommon for women to unwrap a cigar, and even cut and toast it under a long match for their amours, cigar *smoking* was generally left to the men.

A glance around the bar at the Waldorf Astoria the other night showed that things have changed. In one corner stood a couple of flat-stomached beauties, both holding six-inch Dominican Licenciados Toros to their scarlet-touched lips. Through the door walked a raven-haired beauty in a partially open mink coat. She flared her nostrils and inhaled deeply the thick, cigar-scented air before closing her eyes in ecstasy. To all sides, husky female voices sounded. And down the way from me sat a cool blonde, Lynne Poland, an elbow resting on the bar and a newly-lit Montecristo trailing smoke from her lean left hand.

> A raven-haired beauty inhaled the air in ecstasy

Miss Poland, 34, is a spectacular example of the new wave of cigar connoisseuse. She has been smoking for ten years, and has been employed by leading cigar merchants as a sales assistant and executive. She now has her own cigar-importing company, Lynne Poland Enterprises (president: L. Poland), and says that smoking cigars is one of her "few ways of relaxing".

New York, a city with no shortage of independent, rich women, is on the crest of the female cigar movement. Manhattan's Monkey Bar has held an all-dames smoking night, an event repeated at the bar's sister restaurant, Tapika, where the star speaker was Emmanualle Marty, the French founder of El Subliminado cigars. A chapter of the George Sand Society for cigar smokers — named after the cigar-smoking author and pioneering feminist — has opened in New York, and more than half the members are women.

Paramour of Chopin and author of *The Haunted Pool*, George Sand smoked several cigars a day, partly in line with her "lifestyle as rebellion" campaign, but partly because she grew to like the things, even rely on them. Julie Ross, co-founder of the society's branch in Santa Monica, California, has said that she was attracted by George Sand's "uncompromising individuality and spirit of freedom. She was an outrageous character but also very accomplished and successful."

The spirit of freedom, so long considered a part of American life, is an important motivator here. In the past ten years smokers have been relegated to second-class citizens. Ironically, the anti-smoking campaigners may have given smoking the allure of rebellion. It is also notable that the women's movement, which might normally protest about any health threat to women, has not uttered a word against the growth in female cigar smoking. Cigars are liberating, a tool of emancipation.

The well-established *Cigar Aficionado* magazine, which *Smoke* must hope to emulate, recently carried a lengthy essay in praise of cigar aficionadas. Typical of its subjects was Tomima Edmark, a Dallas businesswoman, who described the first time she smoked a cigar. She was in Chile and had just returned from a diplomatic dinner.

"I was sitting in the hotel lobby with a group of 12 American businessmen when they, *en masse*, began lighting up Cuban cigars," she recalled. "I was intrigued by the sight. One of them offered me a cigar, but in a very teasing way, never expecting me to accept." She did accept, however, and although initially she did not like the taste she derived pleasure from the lighting ritual.

She also discovered the effect it can have on the weaker-minded sex. A South American man, having watched her amorously for some time, walked up to her and invited her to dinner with the words: "I've been looking all my life for a woman who smokes a cigar." She turned him down — no chat-up line so corny deserves to be rewarded.

European women have been ahead of their American sisters for some time on the cigar front — Denmark is apparently the hot zone for female cigar-smoking — but for tobacco growers it is America, with its large population and its spending habits, that promises the rich returns.

The movement has some star recruits. Linda Evangelista, Whoopi Goldberg, Jodie Foster and Madonna have all lit up, while in Britain we have had the artist Maggi Hambling, *The Sunday Telegraph's* elegant literary editor Miriam Gross, and *Spitting Image's* Margaret Thatcher puppet. American women are smoking at the expensive end of the market, choosing "gourmet" cigars. In the late 1980s statistics suggested that women formed a mere one-tenth of 1 per cent of the cigar market. In Manhattan today they are reckoned to form close to 5 per cent of it.

At *Cigar Aficionado*, the growth in the female market has come as a pleasant surprise. When the magazine started three years ago it expected its readership to be elderly and male. It is, in fact, being read by younger people of both sexes. Simultaneously, a Florida cigar maker plans to introduce a special brand for women. The Cleopatra Collection of cigars have tapered ends, making them easier to light and to hold in the mouth — although one suspects that part of the appeal of cigars for some women is their very masculinity.

For men, the sight of a woman lighting up a Sancho Panza Corona, a Bering Imperial or, say, a Fonseca Triangular can still lead to comic double-takes. Colleen Magil, a writer from Philadelphia, recalled how her cigar habit once caused a road accident.

> The women's movement has said nothing against it

At some red traffic lights a man in the car next to her stared in disbelief at the stonking great chimney protruding from her lips. In his daze he absent-mindedly lifted his foot from the brake and crunched into the car in front of him. Ms Edmark, toying with a Davidoff Ambassadrice — they have such great names, these cigars, like Fifties cars — has noted: "I've never met a man who wasn't sitting there smiling when I lit up. It's a great conversation starter."

A leading Chicago tobacconist, Diana Silvius-Gits, told *Cigar Aficionado* that women are her trade's "next big market" and that they are fast finding their way around the various brands and cigar types. In general, they tend to go for the milder ones, though size is no guide to the taste of a cigar. Emmanualle Marty likes her own Subliminados, mellowed by brandy, but also smokes Bolivars and Montecristos. Ms Edmark, if out of Ambassadrices, goes for Churchills. "Don't be scared of big ones," she says. Followers of Sigmund Freud have plenty to discuss here.

Lastly, is it attractive? The smell can be a problem. After the evening at the Waldorf Astoria I not only felt as though I had passive-smoked the contents of an entire humidor, but also had to take my suit to the dry cleaner and ask him to set his machine's dial to "industrial". It was the same story at Claridge's last year, after a *Cigar Aficionado* dinner at which some 900 cigars were lit. A boiler-suited crew of cleaners equipped with factory defumigators were kept busy the entire following day.

The actress Kim Basinger, when shooting *Nine and a Half Weeks*, complained about having to kiss her co-star Mickey Rourke, who smokes 40 cigarettes a day. It was, she said, "like licking an ashtray". Kissing a cigar smoker can probably be compared to puckering up to a furnace door in the Black Country. The only solution is to take up cigars yourself.

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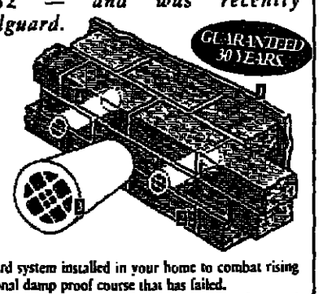
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INSIDE SECTION 2

Castanets at five paces: Spain's top flamenco company brings hot-blooded melodrama to London
Page 32

هكذا من الأصل

صكزا من الأصل

Philip Howard



■ Hellfire is too satisfying an idea to be abolished by Church of England fiat

So the Church of England has ruled that Hell exists and that we shall all face a Day of Judgment. Such Anglican certitude is as welcome as it is unusual. However, the bad news is that it has ruled out the fire and brimstone, and the devils with red-hot toasting-forks. From St Paul to the latest millionaire evangelist, with fleets of Ferraris and doxies (both scarlet) offscreen, hellfire preachers have always frightened the collection out of their congregations by this threat.

Eternal damnation, preferably with the *peine forte et dure* (in the French torturers' term), and a squillion times more painful than the worst tortures on Earth, is a particularly attractive notion for mankind. Especially if it is used to punish one's enemies — such as the infidel, heathen, and of course rival sectarians. Such sadism goes back long before the jolly Marquis and even Christianity: to Prometheus having his liver eternally transplanted by vulture's beak, Sisyphus rolling his briefcase up the down escalator, and starving Tantalus tantalised by delicious food and drink just out of his reach. Without infernal brutality, such Surrealists as Hieronymus Bosch and Quentin Tarantino would find their occupations gone.

And the loud literary form of the hellfire sermon would lose its force. The mythical example is the Wee Free Minister in the Hebrides ranting the fear of God at his congregation: "And in that terrible eternity, when ye are roasting in burning oil, ye will look up and cry, 'Lord, Lord, we didna ken!' And from His throne of infinite maircy, the Lord will look down and say, 'Well, ye ken noo'." The story may even be true on Harris, where they put lobster pots over the cocks on the Sabbath to stop them pleasuring the hens.

But the authentic hellfire sermon was hardly less alarming. Here is the unaptly named Puritan, Christopher Love, in 1650: "When thou art scorching in thy flames, when thou art howling in thy torments, then God shall laugh, and His saints shall sing and rejoice, that His power and wrath are thus made known to thee." And from the other side of the bloody pulpit, here is the royalist fellow of All Souls, Jeremy Taylor: "Hell could not be Hell without the despair of accursed souls; for any hope were a refreshment, and a drop of water, which would help to allay those flames, which as they burn intolerably, so they must burn for ever."

The theological argument against devils with toasting-forks asks why a good God would allow anyone to be deprived of Him, let alone suffer the torments of the damned for ever. Part of the paradox is said to be that it was a generous act to give human beings the ultimate free will of rejecting the good for ever. Some generosity! The Marxist (Groucho) argument goes that a good guy would not want to go to any heaven that would admit him as a member, out of fellow-feeling for those condemned to the other place. The company of Don Giovanni and Julian the Apostate sounds more fun than most of those saints and preachers, popes, Dr Paisleys and martyrs.

It is a literary truism that Satan rather than Adam, Eve, those indistinguishably priggish archangels or even God Himself is the romantic hero of *Paradise Lost*. You meet a much better class of sinner in Dante's *Inferno* than in the *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso*. That heroic regicide Brutus ends up in the bottom of the freezing pit being chomped by Satan himself. But Dante reserves his love and best lines for such miserable sinners as the lost lovers, Paolo and Francesca, Virgil, and his old tutor, Bruno Latini.

Death is going to be less interesting without the boiling pitch and the screaming devils. But even though the Church of England has ruled hot Hell theologically incorrect, it is too satisfying an idea to go away. Zealots, sadists and nutters will keep it going. Martin Luther was a witty man, though much obsessed with Hell and influenced by the mortal cruelties of the Reformation. He was pestered by a young theologian with the question of where God had been before He created the world. Finally Luther snapped: "He was building Hell for such presumptuous, fluttering and inquisitive spirits as you are." Right on, Martin. Hell is not just other people. It is also strictly *for* other people.



The diva with a shadow

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf stands accused of being a Nazi. But what would any of us have done in her position?

Bernard Levin

It was only a few weeks ago that I wrote, yet again, about the Holocaust. On that occasion I was discussing, first, the mad or evil (or mad *and* evil) men who deny that the Holocaust ever happened, and next, the much more evil men — yes, there are some — who wallow in the Holocaust, loving and revering Hitler. Hark to the American Gary Lauck, perhaps the most Nazified figure in this entire midden (he is so steeped in Nazism that he has grown a moustache exactly like Hitler's, and although he is entirely American, he deliberately speaks with a German accent): "In my opinion the Jews were treated too humanely. We must never make this mistake again."

So what is there more to say, after that? Two things: the first thing was encapsulated by a Holocaust survivor, who said, "I believe no culprit should be allowed to climb into his grave without being unmasked". And the second thing? The second thing is what I propose to write about today.

I have been rebuked for my belief that the few old men who murdered Jews and somehow found asylum in Britain should be left in peace, though their victims could find no peace except in the grave. (One of the accused could be seen on television a few days ago; very old and no doubt ready to deny everything.)

When *will* that tap stop dripping? The answer is a grim one: it will stop dripping when, and only when, every person who has drunk from it or washed in it is dead. Again and again, some elderly man or woman is found to be a survivor of the Holocaust, and it is sometimes a very delicate matter to discover on which side that person lived. But now we have another problem. We have, still living among us, one of those elderly figures — she is just 80 — who cannot be simply categorised as another old and doddery figure, of no importance except to her own family. For this person, you see, is famous. Very famous. Very famous indeed.

True, she is famous only in the musical world, but in that world she still shines above us like the stars, for a star she was throughout her wonderful career. That career was based in Britain — indeed, she lived in Hampstead — when, of course, she was not flitting about the world doing her work. In 1979, when her British husband died, having worked tirelessly for her fame, she retired to Switzerland. She is not a recluse by any means; in 1992 she was decorated by the Queen as a Dame of the British Empire. And now, someone has written and published a book about her and her career.

Tush: there must be a dozen books about her and her career; I have one on my own shelves, and I would feel odd if I hadn't. For you see, the famous person we are discussing is Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, one of the most wonderful opera singers the world has ever heard.

I started with the words "For you see", but you cannot possibly see until I have explained. I said that someone had written a book about Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and such books are standard in the operatic world: but even the most self-satisfied luvvie (and the luvvies in the world of the opera are self-satisfied indeed) would shudder on seeing such a book as the one that has just been published, written by Alan Jefferson (who he?) and published by Victor Gollancz. (Gollancz himself died many years ago and his business was long ago swallowed up by Cassell, but the publishing world has a generous and charming practice which leaves intact the imprint of a long-dead publisher.)

Now the book says, in the most vigorous terms, that although Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was indeed a most wonderful singer, she was also a deep-dyed Nazi throughout her entire time in Hitler's Germany and quite possibly after. (There is another wry aspect to this story: Gollancz himself would have been horrified twice over to learn that Madame Schwarzkopf was being attacked, once because of her miraculous singing, and second and more important because Gollancz spent thousands of hours on reconciliation between Germany and Britain — indeed, the world.)

And here we are again. But we are no longer talking about the doddery figure with one foot in the grave; we are talking about a musician of genius and her past. And her past, for many people, is more interesting than her genius, *particularly for those whose relatives died in the gas-chambers*. Before you shout me down, kindly listen to this:

> I obediently declare herewith: none of my parents or grandparents has ever belonged at any time to the Jewish religion, nor have I ever been married to anybody of non-Aryan descent . . . I vow to be true and obedient to the Führer of the German Reich and people, Adolf Hitler, and to fulfil my duty conscientiously and unselfishly.

That, as you may have guessed, was the form of induction into the Nazi Party. And that was Elisabeth Schwarzkopf signing on as a fully fledged member, number 7,548,960. *Now* you can shout. Particularly because there is proof that, after the war, when the Nazis were being sorted out from the innocents, she claimed that she had never been a member of the Nazi Party, and repeated that lie several times until finally she gave in and told the truth.

Now then: singing beautifully and being a Nazi is not necessarily the same thing, nor the opposite of it. If you made a list of artists — in music, in the theatre, in painting and sculpting, in writing itself — and then counted up the whole number of German artists who carried on their trade after being fully inducted into the Nazi Party, how many would the list contain? And then, after the war, count the number of such figures. Three-and-half, would you say? Where is the ruler that always rules straight?

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf signed up as a Nazi, true to her leader, Adolf Hitler. And what did that mean? That she would, every Saturday, murder a specified number of Jews? Reader, would *you* like to live between the devil and the deep blue sea? Her signing on as a Nazi meant nothing other than "I want to go on singing". Who shall be so pure and white to say no to Adolf Hitler, when saying no is likely to mean losing a job, and indeed a life. Yes, there were heroes, who died for being heroes; come, Mr Jefferson, with hand on heart, would you swear that if you had a choice between signing on as a Nazi and being hung from a fine wire you would not choose the signature?

The trouble with this terrible problem is that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf learnt to sing, and to sing so beautifully that her singing was heard all over the world. If she had only learnt double-entry book-keeping, not only would she have had no reason to tell lies about her past, but she would have been much less likely to be obliged to sign up as a Nazi against her will.

How many human relics of the war and the Holocaust are there left? How many prominent persons in the arts and sciences who lived through hell and saw the rainbow in the end? These are no less or more cherishable human beings, for all their prominence. Fear of a dreadful death, in those days, hung over the great and the low together.

Who was Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to change the world? In a sense, and a rather powerful sense, she *did* change the world, at least in one tiny corner. In my own youth I heard her sing again and again, and the sounds that came from her were not the thud of the jackboot, I can tell you. Come; she signed up on a wicked piece of paper; did that make her wicked? Did she ever push a Jew off the pavement? Did she demand space in the Nazi newspapers to denounce Jews? How often did she go about with members of the Gestapo telling where Jews were hidden?

Take it from me, you pillow-heroes, when *your* time comes, most of you will suffer just as much trembling of the hands as any ordinary coward like me. Who will demand that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf must be braver than anyone else?

Not me. She was weak, perhaps, and — more to the point — she wanted cheers. What artist of the stage doesn't? (I don't think even Haitink would reject them.) But above all, in this story, there hangs one more aspect, and it is this. We cannot measure, let alone understand, what a life in the Third Reich meant. When you and I can understand it, then, but only then, may we rebuke Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. I think the rebuke will be some time coming.

Are there still two nations?

The North-South divide is no more, says **Paul Barker**

Does the North still exist, in the old sense, as chronicled in a thousand novels and political tracts? Can one still talk about a North-South divide? On Monday, BBC2 begins a nine-part saga, *Our Friends in the North* — "three decades, four friends and the world that shaped their lives" — which assumes that you can.

Certainly, the North-South divide is a phrase still much used by politicians. It was behind the Labour Party's proposals for English regional assemblies, to complement its devolution schemes for Scotland and Wales. Tony Blair has backed off, pending further evidence that local people actually want such assemblies. But if regional divisions are still so great, why don't they show much enthusiasm? Perhaps the North-South divide has gone the way of the dodo and the great auk. Always trust the people.

The starting point of *Our Friends in the North* is Newcastle upon Tyne in the 1960s, when T. Dan Smith, the local Labour Party boss, said he would do anything to pull the city and its region up by their bootstraps. Newcastle would rival Stockholm: clean tall tower-blocks, motorways, new towns. The means mattered less than the ends. Smith and the omnipresent architect-developer, John Poulson, ended up in jail, for corruption.

The memory of Smith as the self-proclaimed Cock o'the North — and of his equivalent city bosses across Britain — is enough to make anyone pause before thinking that regional baronies are the answer. Such bosses had little heed for aspirations other than their own: biggest was always best. A Labour spokesman recently confessed to me that he worries that if his party forms the next government, it will be off again, thinking that all it need do is build, build, build, like those old city bosses, as if bricks and mortar alone would create the New Jerusalem.

It sometimes seems that all that is left of Smith's flawed ambition is a Scandinavian-style City Hall in Newcastle, and depressed, workless Tyneside and Teesside towns linked by fast, empty roads. Newcastle vies with Manchester for the title of car theft capital of England. Cleveland (that is, Middlesbrough) is better known for child-abuse than for its old steel-making industry. But things are never so simple.

England has changed over the past generation in ways that men like Smith never foresaw. Undeniably, regional disparities exist. One yardstick of prosperity is that fewer people in the North have cars. One yardstick of achievement is that pupils do less well in their GCSEs. But on many measures, North and South have become more closely knit.

For innumerable northerners (myself included), the thing to do was simply to get out. There was room in the South. But the transformation of the economy from industry to services has changed all that. A third of school-leavers across Britain now take degree courses. Nowadays, not all graduates feel they have to take the next train to London. Jobs to suit them have grown up everywhere.

Measured in miles, the North may still be as far as ever from the South. But in hours, distances have shrunk. As a child in Yorkshire, I regarded a trip to London as a rare adventure. Now, from Leeds, London is one place to go to for a Saturday night out. When Eurostar opens its northern service, Paris will fall into the same category. In *Our Friends in the North*, local councillors can be bribed by a trip to exotic Spain. The past is another country: it was much more parochial.

None of this means that England — or Britain — is no longer a nation divided against itself. It is just that the divide has shifted.

The great division now is between the suburbs and the city. (And, these days, small towns and the countryside are often a kind of suburb; people sleep there but work elsewhere.) The greatest poverty is in cities, whether North or South. And the greater the city, the greater the poverty.

Nowhere are the divisions deeper than in the capital. The 1995 edition of *Regional Trends* puts the average gross household income in London at almost £432 a week, a good £100 higher than in Yorkshire. (Remember that life in general, especially housing, is much cheaper in Yorkshire.) And yet London contains the three worst-off local authority areas in England: Newham, Southwark and Hackney. Several other London boroughs rate little better.

Recently I walked around parts of the North-East which reminded me of the worst tracts of the United States: desolate and despairing. Men stood by colliery gates watching the pithead being demolished. I went into the Meadow Well estate, outside North Shields, where rioting flared up in the summer of 1991 and has still not recovered from its wounds. No one should underestimate such social tragedies. The North, alas, still has plenty to grieve over.

But if you want to peer into what the social investigators of Victorian England called "the abyss", you must go into the dark heart of our cities. And, in particular, London. This is today's most painful divide.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.

Lofty view

PIGEON-FANCIERS are in a flap about birds which get as high as — well, a pigeon. For the first time, the Royal Pigeon Racing Association is considering changing its rules to ban performance-enhancing substances.

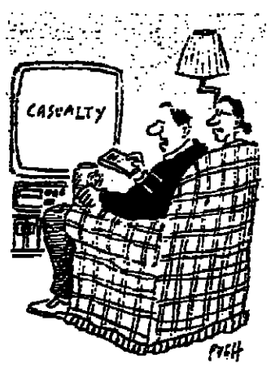
Pigeons have long been suspected of drug-abuse, with fanciers slipping their birds cortisone to boost stamina and prevent moulting. The problem until now has been to catch them at it, but now developments on the Continent mean that drug tests can be carried out on droppings. Hitherto, any test would have required a blood test, risking the bird's life.

"The association has got as far as appointing a committee to look into the matter," says David Glover, editor of *British Homing World*. "The Belgian authorities have already put out a list of banned substances, and at least three fanciers there have been banned from racing."

The association says that the subject will be raised at its annual general meeting next month: "There is a proposition that we should put in place various rules and regulations with regard to performance-enhancing drugs and substances."

There can be no suggestion that the association's most distinguished member indulges in such ungentlemanly behaviour. Drug-abuse is unknown in the smart new pigeon loft at Sandringham. And doubtless it is all-but free of droppings.

● *For all the huffing and puffing about One Nation Toryism, support in the party seems to be dwindling. The first One Nation dinner of the new session has been cancelled for lack of interest.*



"It's out of date — the patients have all got beds"

THE TIMES DIARY

Would you buy . . ?

BRENT Borough Council wasn't the easiest vehicle to steer when it came to policy decisions, according a former chief executive, Michael Bichard, who is now Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment, recalls in the *Times Educational Supplement* that a decision could be "taken and overturned two or three times in a week".

The saga of the deputy mayor's car proves his point, he says. On a Monday, members decided that the car should be done away with. On Tuesday, they changed their minds, but on Wednesday reversed their decision. On Thursday, Bichard was instructed again to sell it. But the Labour group set a high sale price, hoping to keep the car. Bichard claims they hadn't reckoned with his skill as a used-car salesman. And to Labour's disgust, he sold it to the leader of a Conservative authority.

● *One of the more harmless obsessions of book-collectors is the pursuit of "association copies": books from the libraries of famous people, particularly other writers. This occasionally throws up peculiar conjunctions. But for bizarrerie, can anyone match an item currently on offer in Cecil Court in London: the first edition of James Joyce's* Finnegans Wake *— with the ownership signature of the author of* Mary Poppins*?*

Palace prize

AS the Princess of Wales busies herself again with the plight of the homeless, architects are applying their minds to her own accommodation. The magazine *Building Design* has invited them to design her a new home.

Offering £1,000 for the winning entry (to be judged by the panda-proportioned architect Will Alsop), the magazine says: "To cheer up Di in the new year, we want you to design an absolutely fabulous new home for her as she might not be living at Kensington Palace for much longer. It can be any style, anywhere and should reflect her new role and interests."



Béart blooming awkward

● *Preparations for the gee-gees' week in Cheltenham in March have stumbled at the first hurdle. Work started this week on erecting the mammoth tent village to accommodate thirsty Irishmen and corporate punters, but yesterday John Attwooll and Co, the trusty suppliers of the tentage and furniture, saw its warehouses go up in smoke. I am assured everything will still be set when the gun goes off for the Supreme Novices Hurdle.*

Just possible

THESE ARE trying times for Tom Cruise. He has been dragged back unexpectedly to Pinewood to add some finishing touches to the feature film *Mission Impossible*, which he thought he had done with last year. The reshoot is proving a tougher assignment even than the most arduous stunts performed by his on-screen character.

His co-star, the agreeable French actress Emmanuelle Béart, is now very obviously pregnant, whereas she wasn't when filming started. "The cameramen are using all their ingenuity to film her so that it doesn't show," says a stagehand.

P·H·S

THE CHIEF STOKER

Thatcher's challenge to the Conservative Party

Happiness is not a word that springs naturally to mind when contemplating the Tory party in its present doldrums. Happy, nonetheless, is any party that has core beliefs in which it can take pride, and a statesman who can articulate them with the conviction that Baroness Thatcher brought to the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture yesterday. Labour, whose task is, as Tony Blair understands, to reinvent itself, can call upon no such stimulus; and stimulation was consciously what Lady Thatcher set out yesterday to provide.

John Major, of course, is not looking for stimulus over the coming months, quite the reverse. Barely 36 hours after he had produced his own cautious strategy for the next election, his predecessor proposed ideas that could hardly have been more different. The Major approach, set out at a breakfast with businessmen on Wednesday, is to find a consensus position, however limited, around which his party can unite, a position based on past economic successes, future economic prospects and the threat that Labour will destroy both. The Thatcher alternative is to confront the party Left across a broad range of policies, Europe, public spending, taxation and crime, disdaining unity as an end in itself and creating a position that most clearly differentiates the Tories from Labour.

For months now Mr Major has been calling for a One Nation Conservative Party and a rally on the centre ground, where right and left-wing rebels would march back together into the party tent. Yesterday Lady Thatcher described One Nation Tories as No Nation Tories and the centre ground as a slippery place inhabited by unprincipled spin-doctors. And she said it all with a certain nostalgia, as though she alone was now saying what needed constantly to be said. She praised the "habits of freedom" underpinned by sound institutions which appealed to Britain's shared instincts and traditions. Conservatives, she said, needed no lectures about society — about "the importance of custom, convention, tradition, belief, national institutions or what the ancient Romans would describe as 'piety'."

She made clear that the modern party now lacked the intellectual certainties and philosophical voices that she and Keith Joseph had provided. Mr Major's Conservatives had sought the middle ground but they had not united the party and had lost the middle class on which their power depended.

Lady Thatcher's historical analysis is a persuasive one. She did succeed in cowing her party into unity for a very long time. Her audience at the Centre for Policy Studies last night contained many who remember the arrogant pragmatism of the "wets" in her first Cabinet and the way in which they were one by one defeated. She praised individually Michael Portillo, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and John Redwood — but it is they who are now the minority, the Right which is now isolated in Cabinet on so many issues and the Right which was outmanoeuvred and defeated in last year's leadership election. Mr Major's spin-doctors have, indeed, colonised a small patch of centre ground for him to begin his attack on Labour: but he has given them no choice.

Indeed, Mr Major might have expected worse. True, she did not give him overmuch praise. But she did not seek to bury him. There was scathing dismissal of those, mostly on the Right of the party, who have hinted that a spell in Opposition was the only hope. The attractions of Opposition, she remarked, were "greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it". She praised Lord Joseph for his revolt against the Heath Government, but contrasted Mr Major favourably with the man whose policies she had so successfully upturned.

This speech should not be the wounding blow that some Tories feared and Labour hoped. It was essentially a lecture in the grand style, designed to keep alive the party's principles of Gladstonian liberalism, its roots in the individualism inherited from Erasmus, Hume and Adam Smith. One day, those principles will again unite and invigorate it. All parties long in power, as she observed, have to make sure that they do not run out of steam; in office, she had always regarded it as part of her job to be "Chief Stoker". She is stoking still.

LACK OF SLACK

Health reform should not mean higher risk

A 65-year-old man dies in hospital in Scarborough after being flown by helicopter 80 miles from Bradford, where a doctor's staff had struggled for several hours to find a bed closer at hand. In a Liverpool hospital, 35 patients spend the day on trolleys in the accident and emergency department, one of them for 22 hours. While the reforms of the health service gradually deliver shorter hospital waiting lists and a more efficient use of NHS resources, the flow of cases which require desperate search for scarce beds has not stopped.

Must reform mean risk? The political phrases which pour forth after each bed shortage drama obscure several simple truths. The imbalances between supply and demand in the volatile and expensive "acute" sector revealed by these cases do not throw the principle of pursuing efficient healthcare into doubt. Two quite distinct areas of hospital administration are under pressure: provision of highly specialised intensive care beds and capacity for accident and emergency admissions, mostly in big city hospitals.

To lump every complaint over shortage in the NHS into one allegation that a sacred principle is being trampled on, as Labour's health spokeswoman Harriet Harman did yesterday, is a breathtaking refusal to look the facts in the face. This week's cases revealed that a fundamental principle was under threat, she said: "that when you fall ill and you need treatment you get it when you need it." No government, as Ms Harman is well aware, can operate the NHS on that basis; it would be agreeing to meet all demands made of it, however high they rise. The Government has already uneasily admitted that the pressures on intensive care, accident and emergency departments are a problem. Last March the Health Secretary agreed to review intensive care after a clutch of problems were revealed. This week, the Department of Health circulated best practice guidelines and permission for some casualty work to be done by lesser-qualified staff in an attempt to ease the effects of staff shortages.

Demand is rising. The British Medical Association found that emergency admissions to hospitals had risen by 13 per cent in the four years to mid-1994 and more than 6 per cent last year. The reasons for the rise are debated but the increase is undeniable. This change has coincided with a higher occupancy rate for hospital beds and a remorseless and highly successful drive to cut waiting lists for non-urgent operations. If the Government is to prevent reasonable public concern over very ill patients being shuttled around the country from undercutting its long-haul reform of the NHS, ministers must show that they have not simply ended long waits for hip replacements by extending the delays in casualty departments.

The DoH yesterday invited one of its retired Chief Medical Officers to look at how GPs grapple with hospital shortages. He might usefully consider extending London's emergency clearing service for hospital beds to areas such as Yorkshire and the North West where other tragedies seem otherwise ready to happen.

UNAVAILABLE VENABLES

Of court cases, contracts, cups and coaches

No theme will be discussed in pubs tonight with as much verve as that of Terry Venables. The coach of the England football team — to inform those who have only just returned from the Moon — has declared that he will be unavailable to coach the national side after the end of the European Championship later this year. This has provoked a predictable cascade of passion and punditry. Is he right? Is he wrong? Should he? Shouldn't he? Why? Why not?

Apart from his record to date — played 14, only six won — Mr Venables is no ordinary coach. Allegations about his business affairs hang over his head like a swarm of gnats: indeed, that swarm was there in force when the Football Association chose him for the coach's job in 1994. His diary this year is as crowded with unfriendly fixtures at the law courts as it is with football matches. That, in fact, is one reason that he has decided to give up the day-job after Euro '96. England will then begin the arduous yomp to qualify for the next World Cup, and Mr Venables thinks that his appointments with the judiciary will stop him from giving England's footballers the attention they deserve.

He is right, of course, even though the fuss ignores a simple fact: Mr Venables promises that he will give up his England job at the end of the summer, at precisely the time when his contract expires. There is no guarantee that the FA would have kept him on: current form suggests that it would not. If the "Unavailable Venables" story has caused a storm, it is, largely, a storm in a football cup.

The FA should not have picked him to begin with: he did not come with a "controversy-free" guarantee, and was not even the most skilled man for the job. His appointment was born more of desperation than of clear thought. Gerry Francis would have been more appropriate than Mr Venables: he must be in the running again. Mr Francis has always enjoyed the vote of our own football correspondent, for his knack of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear — exactly what English football seems at present to need.

Make no mistake, however: Mr Venables is not a bad coach. Our footballers have his company till the end of the season, and to the end of an important continental campaign. It is in their interest that the coach, having made up his mind about his future, be allowed to shepherd them in the manner that he thinks best. Mr Venables may have his battles in the court later. Three cases of libel and one for wrongful dismissal are enough to drive the stoutest of men to distraction. But before the judge's gavel comes down, let us allow him to win the European Championship for England . . . or try.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

China's record in dealing with unwanted children

From Mrs N. A. Vale

Sir, The treatment of defenceless babies and children shown last night in *Return to the Dying Rooms* (review, January 10; reports, January 9, 10) is the most wretched, despicable and pitiful that I or, I am sure, anyone else watching the programme have ever seen.

May the members of China's Government never have a moment's peace until these atrocities are at least under control and the situations in the orphanages fully monitored.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. VALE,
Pike Hill Cottage, 9 Linthurst Road,
Blackwell, Birmingham.
January 10.

From Dr David Bellamy, President, Population Concern

Sir, The report which you published on January 10 intimated that I was in favour of the "dying rooms" scenario in China. On the contrary I abhor what is happening and told your correspondent that the heart of the awful tragedy of the death of children in orphanages in China lies in the culture of son-preference and the inequality of the girl-child. Healthy boys are not being victimised in the dying rooms.

Son-preference and discrimination against girl children permeates societies in other parts of Asia, and has other forms of expression across the world. Why else have two major world conferences, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Peking last September and the World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 urged development, including sexual and reproductive rights, to be centred on raising the status and equality of women and girls?

There can be no more poignant demonstration than this example from China of the truth that we must measure a society by the position of women within it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BELLAMY, President,
Population Concern,
178 Great Portland Street, W1.
January 10.

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, The Chinese authorities cannot win. In 1994 the New York-based Human Rights Watch group, determined to indict China for human rights contraventions, issued a report on incidents that had taken place in a Shanghai orphanage between 1988 and 1992. These incidents were drawn to the attention of the authorities, who then investigated them, and the situation was remedied.

Two days ago, when your correspondent, James Pringle visited the orphanage in question, he could find little to criticise (report, January 9). Naturally, the Chinese authorities are now accused of "dressing up" the orphanage to impress visitors.

Orphanages in any country are places where unwanted children are deposited by parents or authorities, and the buildings, care and facilities vary enormously. This is true in China as in Britain.

But the fact is that the Chinese record in the care of orphans is undoubted. On many visits to China between 1963 and 1992 I have been privileged to see the excellent care and attention given to the young orphans, many of whom today occupy positions of importance.

Yours truly,
JACK SHAPIRO,
100 Brim Hill, N2.
January 10.

From Mr Beauman Chong

Sir, What do we associate China with these days? Human rights issues and dying rooms for baby orphans. In 1997 Britain will be handing over the six million hard-working Hong Kong people to the communist dictatorship from which many of them escaped.

How could the British do such a thing?

Yours faithfully,
B. CHONG,
102 Greenhill Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.
January 9.

From Mr J. P. Dickinson

Sir, I suggest that one way in which parents and grandparents can register their disgust at the Chinese authorities' inhuman treatment of unwanted children is to stop buying any toys made in China.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. DICKINSON,
52 Lansdowne Avenue,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
January 10.

Perils and joys of a big lottery win

From Mr Hunter Davies

Sir, What proof has the solicitor, Mr Howard Epstein (letter, January 6), that the bigger the lottery win, the more chance of unhappiness? I know he has worked for one of the Blackburn couple who won £18 million, but he is generalising from that one very particular case.

I have just finished a book (due out in the autumn) about the first year of the National Lottery in which I have followed ten major winners over the first year of their win. These wins affected the lives of 24 individuals, to whom I have talked at length. Only one is less happy than he was before his win. Camelot's own researches indicate that 99 per cent of jackpot winners are happy with their win.

I suspect Mr Epstein has fallen for the consolatory myth that every lottery winner ends up unhappy, which is what all non-winners like to believe, especially after this weekend.

Yours,
HUNTER DAVIES,
c/o Cobblers Cove, Barbados.
January 7.

From Mr Michael Alford

Sir, If happiness could be measured on a pair of scales, would not the sum of 80 prizes at £500,000 defeat the laws of mathematics by exceeding the weight of one of £40 million?

Yours sincerely,
M. ALFORD,
5 Arundel Terrace,
Kemp Town, Brighton, Sussex.
January 9.

From Mr Arnold Pulver

Sir, My wife, who last Saturday afternoon tried to buy a lottery ticket at our local newsagents, was told by a female junior assistant: "Our machine has broken down due to the nation's greed, madam."

Yours truly,
A. PULVER,
6 Howton Place,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.
January 8.

Minority rights

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, In suggesting that minorities here have been "oppressed for generations" Mr Geoffrey Bindman (letter, January 3) maligns the people of this country.

Until quite recently, England was ethnically homogeneous. Minorities (including my parents' generation of Russian Jews) made their way here precisely because this is one of the fairest, most open-minded polities in the world — and I state this from first-hand knowledge of many. Otherwise they would not have come, or stayed on.

Professor Roger Scruton, in his article of December 21, rightly condemned the European Court's ruling that gypsies should enjoy special rights over and above others. That ruling, in my view, is a recipe for resentment and conflict.

The lavishing of privileges on minorities, particularly by left-wing local authorities motivated by anti-democratic creeds — euphemised as "prioritisation", ie, favouritism — antagonises the indigenous population, particularly less-advantaged strata, provoking them to feel that they are being treated as second-class citizens in their own land and sowing the seeds of conflict.

At all times and places, in democracies as elsewhere, minorities depend in the last resort on the goodwill of the majority. Those who take minorities' name in vain for purposes of political axe-grinding do them no favour.

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7.
January 4.

BBC bias?

From Lord Thomson of Monifieth

Sir, On January 9, the House of Lords had a major debate on the BBC Charter. Apart from three frontbenchers, 33 backbench peers spoke. One of the latter, Viscount Caldecote, moved an amendment critical of the performance of the BBC governors in meeting their responsibilities.

This morning's BBC2 news programme, *The Record*, included only three backbench peers in its report. All three were former governors of the BBC. Due impartiality as laid down in the new Charter?

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE THOMSON
(Liberal Democrat Spokesman
on Broadcasting),
House of Lords.
January 10.

Trading failures

From Mr I. D. Bruce

Sir, Professor Kennaway grumbles (letter, January 4) that manufacturing industry has not invested sufficiently in R&D and design. However, weakness in innovation and its commercialisation is a problem in all areas of the economy, in services as well as manufacturing.

One explanation of why the US economy is so much more vibrant and innovative than ours is the presence there, and absence here, of strong competition law. In America no businessman in his right mind will indulge in anti-competitive behaviour for fear of ruinous fines on his company and jail for himself under the anti-trust laws.

British companies trading in Europe do face heavy fines under European law if they break the competition-law provisions of the Treaty of Rome; but for those who trade solely within the UK (a substantial majority) no such sanctions exist.

No one fears the Restrictive Practices Court as it is presently constituted; and as a consequence it is all too often easier to "fix" the market than to provide better products and services for the customer. The sad consequence of this condition is that more effective competition from overseas ultimately takes the business and puts our people out of work.

Until Parliament provides strong investigative powers to the Office of Fair Trading and severe penalties for use by the court, so that anti-competitive business practices can be found and punished, innovation will continue to have a low priority in the UK.

Too many of those experienced but redundant workers identified by Tim Congdon ("Where have all Britain's middle-aged men gone?", December 29, 1995) will stay out of work.

Yours faithfully,
IAN D. BRUCE,
1 Sandiway Park,
Hartford,
Northwich, Cheshire.
January 4.

Recording evidence

From Mrs Mary Symes

Sir, As I have been retired for more than 20 years from my position as clerk to justices for five petty sessional divisions in Suffolk I do not lightly take issue with Judge Anthony Thorpe (letter, January 3) who says that "in trial by lay justices the evidence is not recorded".

However, during the 37 years that I served in this office, I recorded in longhand the evidence in all contested cases. On several occasions the judge hearing an appeal called for my minute book to settle a disputed fact.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MARY SYMES,
Leiston Old Abbey, Leiston, Suffolk.
January 4.

No-fault divorce

From Mr Geoffrey N. Dence

Sir, In his letter today on the Family Law Bill, Sir Bryan Thwaites urges MPs to take heed of the Roman Catholic bishops' statement whilst formulating legislation.

More people get married in a register office than a church, and there are more people who do not practise religion than those who do.

I hope our Members of Parliament are not unduly influenced by a minority opinion no matter how much it is favoured by the media.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. DENCE,
The Firs,
East Grimstead, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
January 11.

Adventurous Ashford

From Mr Martin L. Turner

Sir, I must take issue with your leading article of January 9, "Rail romance revived", which said that "Ashford should rejoice in being put on the railway map", and that Nick Derbyshire, the architect of the new station, "has added Ashford to a list of towns spawned and enriched by the railways".

Enriched, hopefully, but definitely not spawned. This is a chance to rejuvenate a very old-established railway town. The railway came to Ashford in 1843, and the locomotive, carriage and wagon works was in business continuously from 1848 for more than 130 years. There is still a busy maintenance depot in the town.

Crewe was only a modest railway junction with no town in 1840 and its railway works opened only five years before Ashford's. York was established as a railway town only a few years earlier than that.

Notwithstanding this, I agree that Ashford International is both an exciting development and opportunity for the future.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN L. TURNER,
Heathway, Chapel Road,
Hothfield Common, Ashford, Kent.
January 10.

Darwin's finch

From Professor Emeritus A. J. Brook, FRSE

Sir, The report (January 5) of the finch recently found in a Melbourne museum states that the specimen and that of a tapaculo were "almost certainly tagged and preserved by Charles Darwin on his voyage round South America in the 1830s".

Darwin and the *Beagle* visited Australia between January 12 and March 14, 1836, on the way home from South America and the Galapagos Islands. He returned to England, never to leave her shores again, on October 2, 1836. Hence the Melbourne museum specimens must have been labelled, probably in London, when he was sorting through his collections after his return.

However, it is most intriguing that the specimens have ended up in Australia.

The report mentions his voyage round South America "during his quest to prove the theory of evolution". This was in no way the purpose of his voyage as naturalist and companion to Captain Fitz-Roy. It was only after his return that in 1837 he opened his first notebook on the transmutation of species.

Doubts about the fixity of species surfaced in his mind only during the later years of the five-year voyage, stimulated in particular after his all too short visit to the Galapagos.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN J. BROOK,
19 Chandos Road, Buckingham.
January 5.

From Mr Ian Leitch

Sir, The preserved finch in the vaults of the Museum of Victoria appears to have been presented by Charles Darwin to the Zoological Society of London on January 4, 1837. In *Darwin* (pp208-210) his biographers, Adrian Desmond and James Moore, record that

At the zoo's headquarters in Leicester Square, he presented 80 mammals and 450 birds to the Society . . . He had no sense of a single, closely related group becoming specialised and adapted to different environmental niches. The birds did not even seem that important when he donated them . . . rather badly labelled . . .

The expert he turned them over to was the ornithologist, artist and taxidermist John Gould [who was about to publish his *Birds of Australia*] . . . By the next meeting, on the 10th — only six days later — Gould had linked them as "a series of ground Finches which are so peculiar" as to form "an entirely new group, containing 12 species" . . . Darwin's birds and mammals were set out for display, and reporters from the dailies heard Gould's news. The papers ran the story . . .

Maybe press coverage is nothing new for this finch.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LEITCH,
121 Abbotts Drive,
North Wembley, Middlesex.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Sports letters, page 37

Charity mailshots

From Mr Freddy Kosten

Sir, The remedies that Eileen Bushell seeks against intrusive mailshots (letter, January 8) are already available to her via the Data Protection Act since, as Russell Vallance points out in his adjoining letter, computer technology is normally involved.

She can certainly insist that her "identity and personal details are not passed or sold to other charities", and indeed should have been alerted to this option by the charity involved; similarly, she can instruct the charity to send her no direct mail.

Any charity, or other "data user", in breach of such instructions could face enforcement action by the Data Protection Registrar.

Yours etc,
FREDDY KOSTEN,
Co-editor, *Data Protection News*,
Hoskyns Group plc,
City House, 190 City Road, EC1.
January 9.

MoD move

From Mrs Jackie Morley

Sir, So Mr E. C. Baker (letter, January 1) does not like the relocation terms for MoD staff moving from London to Bristol.

As an RAF wife of 22 years, having had 15 involuntary moves all over the world and four by choice (a modest military total), I would quite like £25,000 "relocation expenses".

Yours faithfully,
JACKIE MORLEY,
54 Greenwood, Walters Ash,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mobile menace

From Mrs Sue Johns

Sir, May I suggest, that at the same time as installing the "No Talking" carriage (Canon Southwell-Sander's letter, January 10), the railways also provide some "old grumps only" coaches. Steve Race (letter, January 8) and the canon could then enjoy each other's company in silence.

Sincerely,
SUE JOHNS,
89 Westhurst Drive,
Chislehurst, Kent.
January 10.

From Mr R. B. Waterhouse

Sir, On the Japanese train, the Shinkansen, mobile phones may only be used in the areas at the ends of coaches. Payphones are also available there.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WATERHOUSE,
20 Heather Lea Avenue,
Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
January 10.

From Mr T. R. Murton

Sir, "No Talking" carriages are an attractive idea, but as a frequent late-night traveller from Victoria, the introduction of "No Eating" carriages would be my priority.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MURTON,
7 Royal Crescent, Brighton, Sussex.
January 10.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 11: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by The Prince of Wales at the Memorial Service for Monsieur François Mitterrand (formerly President of the French Republic) which was held in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 11: The Princess Royal today visited West Yorkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr John Lyles).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning visited Leeds Carers Centre, Leeming House, Vicar Lane.

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, later attended a Fund-raising Luncheon at Direct Line House, the Headrow, Leeds.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Shipley College, Exhibition Road, Saltaire, Shipley.

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, later visited Victim Support Merseyside Branch, Parish Centre, St Nicholas Parish Church, Chapel Street, Liverpool.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended a viewing of the film "Chariots of Fire" for the British Olympic Appeal at Liverpool Town Hall.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 11: The Prince of Wales received the Rt Hon John Gummer MP (Secretary of State for the Environment).

His Royal Highness received Mr Hayden Phillips (Permanent Secretary, Department of National Heritage).

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this evening attended a viewing of Sotheby's Winter Exhibition for Friends and Patrons of the Institute, New Bond Street, London W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 11: The Princess of Wales received Captain Peter Wilkinson RN (Commanding Officer, *HMS Vanguard (Port)*).

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), received Lieutenant Colonel Robert Russell upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 5th Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Knight upon assuming the appointment.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
January 11: Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of the Lord Grantchester which was held today in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as president, will attend a display of Prince's Youth Business Trust businesses in The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, at 10.20; will view city centre developments from 11.20; will visit the Law Courts, Castlegate at 12.25; the Council of British Archaeology, Walmgate, at 1.00; and will visit the studios of Mr Dick Reid, craftsman carver and restorer, at 23 Fishergate at 2.20.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Lord Harris of Peckham

The life barony conferred upon Sir Philip Charles Harris, Knight, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Harris of Peckham, of Peckham in the London Borough of Southwark.

Lord Sewel

The life barony conferred upon Mr John Buttifant Sewel has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Sewel, of Gilcomstoun in the District of the City of Aberdeen.

Queen's College, London

Term began on Monday, January 8, and half term is from Monday, February 19, to Friday, February 23, inclusive. The Entrance Examination for the School (11+) takes place on Friday, January 19. Term ends after Founder's Day on Thursday, March 28. The preacher at the Founder's Day service at All Souls, Langham Place will be the Rev David Evans.

Scholarships for sixth form entry in 1996 have been awarded to the following girls:

Jada Arigbede; Olivia Alvarez; Araminta Atha; Elgiva Field; Xanthe Fuller (Arts Educational School); Annabel Lopez; Madeleine McGowan; Bahareh Mozafarian; Katie Oliver; Priya Patel (Harvington); Sejal Patel; Juliet Riddell; Sharon Shaw; Chloe Wright.

Wax Chandlers' Company

The Lord Mayor has received a cheque for his St John Ambulance appeal from the Wax Chandlers' Company.

Mr Robert Gilbert has received a cheque from the company as the prize for the best paper submitted to the British Bee Keepers' Association in their 1995 competition.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Groton, Suffolk, 1588; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, Muzaffarpur, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Ferenc Molnar, dramatist, Budapest, 1878; Curbastron Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1853; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, Calais, 1894.

DEATHS: Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; George Froster, explorer, Paris, 1794; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Bath, 1897; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1976.

The Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was founded, 1866.

The British-Zulu War began, 1879.

The London Co-op opened the first supermarket in London at Manor Park, 1948.

A Boeing 747 (jumbo) jet landed at Heathrow airport after its maiden transatlantic flight from New York, 1970.



ANDRÉ CAMARA

Cavaliere Giovanni Gucco, chief mosaicist at St Mark's, Venice, examining one of the mosaics on the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gore which were made in Venice in the 19th century. Rain has damaged them and large sections are to be removed for repair as part of a £14 million restoration programme being carried out by English Heritage

Birthdays today

Miss Kirstie Alley, actress, 41; Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 48; Mr Ernest Armstrong, former MP, 81; Miss Hazel Aronson, QC, Sheriff of Lothian and Borders at Edinburgh, 50; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 63; Sir Charles Ball, company director, 72; Mr H.G.H. Barratt, trade unionist, 91; Lord Boardman, 77; Mr P.W. Botha, former President of South Africa, 80; Sir James Bottomley, diplomat, 76; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 67; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 79; Mr Keith Dawson, Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 59; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 48; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 52; Baroness Hamwee, 49; Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, 60; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 55; Lord Justice McCowan, 68; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 70; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 75; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 64; Sir John Rennie, former Governor-General, Mauritius, 79; Sir Terence Streeton, diplomat, 66; Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, 65; Mr Peter Wilson, theatrical producer, 45.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held last night on board the flagship *HMS Victory*, Portsmouth Naval Base, for General Jorgen Lyng, Chief of Defence Denmark (Danish Army).

Dinner

1912 Club
Sir Graham Bright, MP, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the 1912 Club held last night at the House of Commons by courtesy of Mr Roger E. Sims, MP, chairman of the club. Mr David Amess, MP, was the sponsor. Dr Ian McKinley also spoke.

Birmingham Society

The following have been elected fellows of the society:
Sir Peter Wright, Mr R.N. Mapp, Mr J.R. Bettinson, Mr Donald Broomes, Mr Neal Foster, Mr Don Macleod, Mr F.J. Trowman, Mr Bill Turner, Mrs D.P. Lopacka, Mr Patrick McCool, Mrs Alice Powell, Mr C.W. Allen and Mr R.G. Bartlett.

Memorial services

Lord Grantchester, QC
Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Grantchester, QC, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Donald Gray officiated.

Lord Grantchester and the Hon James Suenson-Taylor, sons, read the lessons. The Hon Jeremy Suenson-Taylor, son, read a passage entitled *Retrospect* from *Fly Fishing* by Lord Grey of Fallodon. Lord Ackner gave an address.

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Mark Ormerod.

Among others present were:
Betty Lady Grantchester, the Hon *Deborah Suenson-Taylor, and the* Hon Mrs Grimstone (daughters). Mr and the Hon Mrs Keith Lobban (son-in-law and daughter), Lady Grantchester and the Hon Mrs James Suenson-Taylor (daughters-in-law), *Mr Gerald Grimstone (son-in-law)*, Mr Toby Grimstone, Miss Jenny Grimstone, Miss Anna Grimstone, the Hon Holly Suenson-Taylor, the Hon Jesse Suenson-Taylor, the Hon Hannah Suenson-Taylor, the Hon *Adam Suenson-Taylor, Miss Rowan* Suenson-Taylor, Miss Laurel Suenson-Taylor, Miss Zoe Suenson-Taylor and Mr Daniel Suenson-Taylor (grandchildren), the Hon Mrs Monica Parish (sister), Mr Nicholas Burnett, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Bourke, Mrs E Gaunt, Miss Diana Gaunt, Mr and Mrs H Hunter, Mrs Barbara Johnstone, Miss Jemima Johnstone, Mr and Mrs Robert Moorhead, Mr and Mrs Ben Moorhead, Sir Denis and Lady Mountain, Mrs Nigel Macpherson, Mr and Mrs John Moores, Mr Peter Moores, Mr Alexis Moores, Mr and Mrs Patrick Stubbs, Mr Michael Stubbs, Mr Peter Kirwan-Taylor, Lady Critchley, Mr and Mrs Alfred Taylor, Mrs Kay Taylor, Miss Deirdre Kirwan-Taylor, Mr and Mrs Max Taylor, Mr Jonathan Taylor, Mrs Joanna Walker, Miss Donatella Moores, Mrs Kirsten Rasmussen.

The Earl of Dartmouth (president, Buck's) with Mr R E O Russell (chairman); Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, the Viscount of Oxford, *Lord Aberdare, Lady Ackner, Lord* Boston of Faversham, QC, Lord Brougham and Vaux, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord and Lady Brightman, Baroness Carnegy of Lour, Lord Clark of Kempston, Lord Congleton, Lord and Lady Donoboyne, Baroness Hooper, Lord and Lady Kilbracken, Lord Lyell, Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, Lord Murton of Lindisfarne, Lord and Lady Mountevans, Deirdre Lady Mountevans, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Orr-Ewing, Lord Pym, Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, Lord Wilberforce, Sir Michael and Lady Palliser, Sir John and Lady Balcombe, the Hon Jeffrey and Mrs Evans, Sir Mervyn and Lady Davies, Sir Philip and Lady Goodhart, Sir John and Lady Grenside, Sir John and Lady Osborn, Lady Salomon, Mr Neil Elles and Baroness Elles.

Mr Christopher Gill, MP, Mr Toby Jessel, MP, Mr and Mrs P Ayling, Mr John F Avery Jones, Mrs W Churchill, Mr T G Field-Fisher, QC, and Mrs Field-Fisher, Dr and Mrs Frank Greenaway, Mr and Mrs Martin *Harris, Mr and Mrs R Harris, Mr Peter* Horsfield, QC, and Mrs Horsfield, Mr G Hughes-Hartman, Mr Ralph Instone, QC, His Honour Stephen Oliver, QC, Mr and Mrs B Pinsent, Mr and Mrs Hugh Sassoon, Mrs M *Seligman, Mr David Shirley, Mr A W* Simpson, Mr John Smoker, Mr P W E Taylor, QC, Mr and Mrs John Trahair, Mr John Winnington-Ingram.

Mr Robert Esden (clerk of the council, Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor), Mr Eddy Digman (chairman, Kingston upon Thames Arts Council), Mrs Jean Howman (chairman, Salmon and Trout Association) and Mr Michael Dunford (secretary, Everton Football Club) with Mrs Lynda Rooney.

Lady Goring
A memorial service for Lady (William) Goring was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Mr Benjamin Morison, son, read the lesson. Miss Lucy Morison, daughter, read one of her own prayers and Mr Nicholas Morris, brother, read from the works of William Wordsworth.

Mr Charles Janson and Lady (Christopher) Bland gave addresses.

Latest wills

Mr Alan Vyvyan Symons, of High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, former deputy chairman of the Carrington Viyella Group and previously chairman of Tootal Broadhurst Lee, now both part of the Coats-Viyella Group, left estate valued at £595,142 net.

Mrs Irene Maria Warrener, of Worksop, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £691,734 net.
She left £67,000 and effects to personal legatees, £1,000 to Worksop Rotary Club, and £5,000 and 1/10th of the residue to the Bassetlaw Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Worksop, and 1/10th of the residue each to the Royal Sheffield Institution for the Blind, St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield, the Dukeries Cheshire Home, Retford, the Sheffield Kidney Research Foundation, Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign, Royal College of Surgeons, the Skin Disease Research Fund, British Heart Foundation and Sue Ryder Foundation.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Mrs Phyllis Mary **Blackburn**, of Iffley, Oxford..... £1,252,234.

Mr Gordon Septimus **Liddle**, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire £1,188,456.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Robin Mann, Rector, Wyre Forest West Group of Churches (Worcester): to be Rector, Avon Valley (Salisbury).

The Rev Jan Neale, Assistant Curate, Great Coates St Nicholas, West Grimsby Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, St Nicholas, Great Coates (Lincoln).

The Rev Graham Newton, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Stevenage: to be Rector, Dunstable Team Ministry (St Albans).

The Rev Charles Patrick, Assistant Curate, Barton on Humber: to be Assistant Priest, St Mary w St James, Grimsby, w special responsibility for St James and Team Vicar designate (Lincoln).

The Rev Philip Rushton, Rector, Litcham w Kempston, East Lexham, West Lexham, Mileham, Beeston-next-Mileham and Stanfield, and Rector, Tittleshall w Godwick and Chaplain to the Norfolk Army Cadet Force: to be Priest-in-charge, Scole w Billingford, Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots (Norwich).

The Rev Graham Saunders, Curate, Olton (Birmingham): to be Team Vicar, Bedminster (Bristol).

The Rev Kenneth Saunders, Vicar, Cherry Willingham: to be Priest-in-charge, North Kelsey, South Kelsey, Holton le Moor, Kirkby, Kingerby, North Owersby, Thornton le Moor and Usselby (Lincoln).

The Rev Canon Roger Sharpe, formerly Rector, Warminster St Denys, Upton Scudamore and Horningsham: to be Team Rector, the newly formed Cley Hill Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Michael Silley, Vicar, the Ingham Group of Parishes and Rural Dean of Lawres: to be Priest-in-charge, Brigg (Lincoln).

The Rev Dr Angus Stuart: to be Senior Anglican Chaplain, University of Bristol, and Honorary Curate, St Michael and St Paul, Clifton (Bristol).

The Rev Pamela Thomas, Assistant Curate, Preston Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge, Weymouth St Edmund (Salisbury).

The Rev Jonathan Trigg, Vicar, St Thomas, Oakwood and Area Dean of Enfield: to be Vicar, St Michael, Highgate (London).

The Rev Eileen Turner, Assistant Curate, Sandal Magna St Catherine (Wakefield): to be Priest-in-charge, Hammerwich, and Diocesan Local Non-stipendiary Ministers' Course Director (Lichfield).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.E. Andreae and Miss L.J. Beer
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of the late Mr John Andreae and of Mrs Andreae, of Yattendon, Berkshire, and Lisa Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Beer, of Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Mr J.H.C. Bayne and Mrs D.P. Percy
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Bayne, of Fittleworth, West Sussex, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Norman, of Brockham, Surrey.

Mr N.L. Blakesley and Miss S. Jeffries
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Blakesley, of Hyde Heath, Buckinghamshire, and Sandy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Jeffries, of Canberra, Australia.

Mr C.N.B. Campbell-Stanway and Miss N.J. Conroy
The engagement is announced between Mr Charles Nicholas Brett Campbell-Stanway and Miss Nancy Jane Conroy, both of Harrow, Middlesex.

The Hon H.W.A. Cecil and Miss N.J. Michels
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney, of Hyde, Hampshire, and Nicola, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Timothy Michels, of Alderbury, Wiltshire.

Mr S.J. Dines and Miss R.S. Waddington
The engagement is announced between Simon James, only son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Dines, of Chobham, Surrey, and Rachel Susan, only daughter of the late Mr Nicholas Waddington and of Mrs Susan Payne and step-daughter of Mr Donald Payne, of Castlemorton, Worcestershire.

Mr P.W.M. Harden and Miss F.E. Freeman
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Harden, of Pulford, Cheshire, and Francesca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Freeman, of Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire.

Mr E.M.M. Jan and Miss S.C. Garrett-Cox
The engagement is announced between Emmanuel Michel Marie, younger son of M. Hervé Jan and the late Mme Annick Jan, née Ponaire, of Pontivy, France, and Sacha Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Garrett-Cox, of Shrubhill, near Dunblane, Perthshire.

Mr D.J. Lipson and Miss A.P. Huxley
The engagement is announced between Daniel John, youngest son of the late Mr Eric-Peter Lipson and of Mrs Irene Lipson, of Cheltenham, and Angela Priscilla, youngest daughter of the late Mr Peter Huxley and of Mrs Priscilla Huxley, of Milton Green, Chester.

Mr T.C. Marsden-Smedley and Señorita M.C. Rodriguez Ossa
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Marsden-Smedley, of Burrington, near Bristol, and María Cristina, elder daughter of Don Jaime Rodríguez Camacho and Señora María Cristina Rodríguez Ossa, of Boyacá, Colombia.

Mr C.B. Matthews and Miss T. Iwashima
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs David Matthews, of Hamels Park, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, and Taco, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Iwashima, of Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo.

Mr H.L.M. Morris and Miss A.E. Oppenheimer
The engagement is announced between Hugo, younger son of the late Mr Richard Morris and of Mrs Richard Morris, of London, and Arabella, youngest daughter of Mr Anthony Oppenheimer, of Burghclere, Hampshire, and Mrs Frederick Barker, of Highworth, Wiltshire.

Mr C.N. James and Miss J.E.V. Pettit
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey James, of Horninghold, Leicestershire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph Pettit, of Sidcup, Kent.

Mr J.R. Levene and Miss N.J. Dritz
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Sir Peter and Lady Levene, of Regent's Park, London, and Nancy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Dritz, of New York.

Mr B.K. Meehan and Miss T.C. Lloyd
The engagement is announced between Bryan, son of Kevin and Christina Meehan, of Ranelagh, Ireland, and Tara, eldest daughter of Jeremy and Britta Lloyd, of Holland Park, London.

Mr G.E.J. Nightingale and Miss A.E. Weston
The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr and Mrs John Nightingale, of Oxford, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr David Weston and Mrs Michael Batty, of Henley-on-Thames.

Mr H.D. Pettifer and Miss N.A. Floyd
The engagement is announced between Henry, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Pettifer, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr John Floyd and Mrs Brian Norman.

Mr S.C. Sainsbury and Miss F. Morandin
The engagement is announced between Sebastien Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Barry Sainsbury, of Belgravia, and Filiziana, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Morandin, of Vatican City, Italy.

Mr J.P.M. Samengo-Turner and Miss B. Bartos
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Fabian Samengo-Turner, of Bucklebury, Berkshire, and Bettina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Bartos, of Bellevue Hill, Sydney.

Mr A. Sheppard and Miss H.J. Stone
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Sheppard, of Gloucester, and Harriet, younger daughter of Mrs Judith Stone, of Oxford, and of the late Commander Simon Stone.

Mr M.K. Simon and Miss K.M. Zmertych
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs James Patrick Simon, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Katalin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ivan Zmertych, of West Hampstead, London.

Mr A.J. Willis and Miss C.L. Knowles
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Willis, of Coxheath, Kent, and Catriona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Knowles, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Marriages

Mr R. Mitchell and Miss M. Winch
The marriage took place on December 16, in Biddenden, between Mr Rory Mitchell, son of Mr and Mrs Matthew Mitchell, of Norfolk, and Miss Miriam Winch, daughter of the late Mr John Winch, FRCS, and of Mrs Murray Johnstone. The Rev Brian Melbourne officiated.

The bride was attended by her sisters Rebecca, Joanna, Christine, Jemima and Charlotte, and by Thomas, Sam, Bruce and Alexander, nephews of the bridegroom. Mr Christopher Ewbank was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon was spent abroad.

Mr J.M. Thoday and Ms L. Newman
The marriage took place on January 6, 1996, in New Zealand, between Jonathan Murray, son of Professor John Thoday and Dr Doris Thoday, of Cambridge, and Lee, daughter of Peter and Pamela Newman, formerly of Whangarei, New Zealand.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I did not know him: but he who sent me to baptize in water had told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is to baptize in Holy Spirit".
John 1 : 33 (REB).

BIRTHS

BALLINGER/THOMAS - On January 6th, to Caroline and Sebastian, a daughter, Alice.

BURRS - On January 7th 1996 at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge, to Emma (née Campbell) and Stephen, a son, Elliot Alexander.

CHAPMAN - On 4th January 1996, to Gary and Julie, a beautiful daughter, Jodie Ronda.

CLOUGH - On Christmas Eve 1995, to Jo (née Dishington) and Mark, a son, Charles William Edward.

COFFIELD - On January 9th, to Catherine and Tom, a son.

GARDNER - On 27th December, to Caroline (née Schenk) and Angus, a daughter, Flora Elizabeth Alice, a sister for William and Charlie.

GREEN - On 8th January 1996, to Dolores Catherine, wife of Gary M. Green, a son, Robert Michael Alexander, a brother for Edward and Alice.

GREIG - On 10th December 1995, to Rana (née Kyad) and David, a daughter, Alexandra Zara.

HURST - On January 6th, to Laurel and Mark, a daughter, Katherine Millicent Cabell.

JEFFS - On 11th January 1996, to Robert and Terressa, a son, Howard Robert Jeffs.

KAYSER - On November 5th 1995, in Perth, Australia, to Jackie (née Greenwood) and Rob, a daughter, Emily Catherine, a sister for Ryan and Natasha.

RAYMENT - Earlier than expected on January 7th, to Nicoletta (née Hodgskin) and Stephen, a daughter, Savanna Nicolette, a sister for Stewart, Scarlett, Shara and Spencer.

SECONDÉ-KYNNERSLEY - On January 7th 1996, to Solène (née Cartier-Bresson) and Charles, a son, Quentin.

DEATHS

BARDEN-SMITH - Clinton Donald on January 9th after a long illness, much loved husband of Jean, father of Ian and Mark and grandpa of Emma, Lucy and Anna. Cremation private. Donations if wished to the British Heart Foundation c/o Francis Chappell & Sons Ltd., 27 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1AR.

BATHER - Colin Maclean suddenly on New Year's Day at the end of a wonderful day's ski-ing in Verbier, Switzerland. Beloved husband of Valerie and devoted father of Alexander and Victoria. Greatly missed by his family and his many friends. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, 16th January, at 11.30 am at the Church of St John the Baptist, Windlesham. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6RR.

BETTS - On 9th January, suddenly in hospital, Cecil H.E. Funeral on Friday 19th January. All Saints Church, Elm Grove Road, Ealing W5, at 12.30 pm followed by cremation at Mortlake. Flowers to W.S. Bond, 19 Bond Street, Ealing W5 5AP, tel: (0181) 567-0422.

BUTT - Henry Arthur suddenly at his home on January 9th aged 67 years of Upton Snodsbury. Dearly loved husband of Barbara, loving father of Tricia and Ann and a much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at St Kenelm Church, Upton Snodsbury, on Monday January 15th at 1 pm, followed by interment. Flowers or donations for the British Heart Foundation may be sent to A.V. Bond Funeral Directors, 41 St Nicholas Street, Worcester, WR1 1UW.

CARMICHAEL - On January 7th 1996 at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, Sir John Carmichael K.B.E. aged 85 years, devoted husband of Cecile, much loved father of Ann, Margaret, Jean, Sally and a dear grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving at The Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, St Andrews, on Tuesday January 16th at 2.30 pm following a private cremation. Family flowers only.

CARR - John Griffith died peacefully on January 9th aged 87 years. Formerly of Hampstead, retired ship owner and Lloyds' underwriter. Husband of Dorothy Laird and father of James and Margaret. No flowers.

CLARKE - Dorothy May (née Leask) peacefully on 10th January 1996 in her 88th year at Southampton General Hospital. Beloved wife of the late Judge Edward Clarke, Q.C. and sadly missed mother and grandmother. Funeral Thursday 18th January at 11.30 am St Peter's Church, Laleham Road, Staines. Family flowers, donations to RNID.

CLARK - On Monday January 8th 1996 in Garrett House, Aldeburgh, Betty Clark (née Gauld), aged 98 years, widow of William Morton Clark, dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church on Monday 22nd January at 11.30 am.

de BURLET - Robert Philip OBE, died at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, on 10th January after a long illness bravely borne. Late of the RAF and HM Diplomatic Service, dearly loved husband, father, brother and grandpa. Funeral at Chichester Crematorium at 4pm on Wednesday 17th January. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to RAF Benevolent Fund. Donations and enquiries to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hants. GU32 3HR, tel: (01730) 262711.

DHONDY - Mae, dearly loved wife of the late Rustom, mother of Perin and Jeremy, grandmother of Piers and Giles, died peacefully in her sleep 10th January 1996. Cremation service 24th January, 2 pm Hendon Crematorium. No flowers. Donations please to The North London Hospice.

EDWARDS - Stephen Zachary, Priest. Husband of the late Ruth Beatrice, father of Ursula and Tish, father-in-law of Dick, grandfather of Diana, Sarah and Richard and great-grandfather of Richard Brooking born 28th December 1995. Died on 10th January 1996 after illness gallantly borne, in peace, in his 92nd year. Greatly beloved of all his family. "The Spirit shall return unto God who gave it". Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Lanreath-by-Looe, Cornwall on Saturday 20th January at 2.30 pm.

EDWARDS - John Basil Edwards C.B.E., J.P. Died peacefully on 10th January 1996, aged 86. Beloved husband of the late Molly and dearest father of Marcus, Caroline and Patricia. Cremation (private), followed by Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church, Bridge Street, Worcester at 12 noon on Friday 19th January 1996. Reception afterwards at the Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester.

FAIRCLOUGH - Wilfred, Artist, on January 6th 1996 aged 88, peacefully. No service. Donations in his name to either Cranbury Medical Centre or Kingston Hospital, Albany Ward Trust Fund, to be sent to Farebrother Funeral Service, 21 London Road, Kingston, KT2 6ND.

GILCHRIST - After a short illness at Stirling Royal Infirmary on 8th January 1996, Mary Lyle Gilchrist, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. aged 92 years of Grendon Court, Stirling. Late Deputy Medical Officer of Leyton, London. Beloved sister of the late Robert and William of Glasgow. Funeral Service at St Columba's Church, Stirling at 2pm on Monday 15th January 1996, thereafter to Falkirk Crematorium at 3pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to The Childrens Hospice, Kharon, Fife.

GILLOTT - Isobel Harriet (nee Varley), peacefully on Tuesday 9th January 1996. Dearly loved and devoted wife of the late Nicholas. Requiem Mass at St Mary the Virgin Church, Bonington, on Wednesday 17th January at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research c/o A.E. Bennett & Sons, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EE.

HOLLOWAY - Michael, lately of Poachers Pocket, Somerset. Died in the evening of January 10th at Polsham in Cornwall.

LANDAU - On January 10th aged 92 at St George's Hospital after a short illness, Ernest, devoted husband of the late Marjorie, beloved father of Jennifer and fond grandfather of Robert, James and Thomas. Former Consultant Anaesthetist St George's Hospital. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, 3.45 pm Monday 15th January. No flowers, donations if desired to Nightingale House, Nightingale Lane, SW12 8NB.

LIZALEK - Audrey on 29th December peacefully at home after a long illness. Widow of Jaroslav, mother of Carol and Sasha. Private funeral has taken place. Donations if desired to The Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 Effie Road, London SW6.

NEWMAN - On 2nd January 1996 peacefully in an Eastbourne Nursing Home Robert Lionel Stephen Newman "Noggs". Retired B.B.C. Engineer. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Family Chapel on Thursday 18th January at 1.30 pm.

PAGE - David W. suddenly at Scords Farm on January 10th aged 71. Beloved by his wife Elizabeth, his children and grandchildren and all who knew him. Private funeral. Immediate family only. No flowers but donations to the British Heart Foundation. Memorial Service to be announced.

PENNINGTON - Denis Arthur Pennington DFC (Penny) died in Spain on 31st December. He had three sons by his first wife, and a daughter by his second. A memorial service will be held in the last week of February. Please contact Jonathan Pennington.

PIPER - On 3rd January 1996 quietly at home with his family, Kenneth Alfred Jasper aged 68 years. Dearly loved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. Cremation at Islington Crematorium, High Road, East Finchley, N2, on Monday 15th January at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The North London Hospice c/o J.H. Kenyon F/D, 6 Woodhouse Road, London N12 0RG, tel: (0181) 445-1651.

RUSSELL-JONES - Lt. Cdr. Geoffrey Christopher DSC, VRD*, RNR. Much loved husband of Teresa and devoted father of Christopher and Geoffrey and of Martin and Claire. Died peacefully on 5th January 1996 aged 78. He will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. Requiem Mass for friends and family at 11 am on 19th January at the Church of the Sacred Heart Newhaven, followed by burial. Flowers and enquiries to J. Wagstaff (01273) 582188.

RUVIGNY - Peacefully on January 9th, Violet Evelyn aged 98, Widow of Charles Rupert Wriothesley, 10th Marquis de Ruvigny, very dearly loved by her son Michael and all his family. Funeral St Joseph's Church, Roehampton, at 2.30 pm Tuesday 16th January.

SILLITOE - Mary Jean, on January 8th 1996 in hospital after a tragic illness bravely borne. Beloved mother of Christopher, Denise, Susan and Nigel and loving companion of Alan. Cremation Service on 17th January 10.30am. Memorial Service for all her friends at 3 pm on Friday February 9th at Chelsea Old Church, Church Street, London. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Services, Charing Cross Hospital, 0181-846 7207).

SIMS-WILLIAMS - Peacefully on 9th January 1996, Kathleen (Kay), widow of the Rev. Michael Sims-Williams, lately of Benenden, Kent. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Girton, Cambridge on Friday 19th January at 3.15 pm. Donations to Christian Aid welcomed in lieu of flowers.

SPENS - On January 10th 1996 in Cornwall, Richard Vernon (Dick), a much loved husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service St Mary's Parish Church, Wednesday January 17th 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Cornwall Air Ambulance c/o Barclays Bank, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

TERRIER - On January 6th peacefully at Hatfield Haven Residential Home, Ruth, widow of Brigadier C.W.M. Timms, mother of Martin and Richard. Funeral Service for family and close friends on Tuesday 16th January at 3 pm at St Andrew's Church, Cottingbourne Ducis, near Tidworth, Wiltshire. Enquiries to Daniel Robinson Funeral Service, tel: (01279) 655477.

TORRENS - Hal died January 3rd at Villefranche Sur Mer aged 84. Sadly missed by family and friends.

WALES - Francis Herbert (Frank) aged 89 years. 10th January 1996 at Poole Hospital, dearly beloved husband of Sheyl and father of Richard, John and Charles. Mourned by all his family. Funeral at Poole Crematorium on Thursday 18th January at 2 pm. No flowers please but donations to The Alzheimers Disease Society.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HULTON - A Mass in Thanksgiving for the life of Lady Nika Hulton will be said on Tuesday 30th January, at 2.30 pm, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

SANDFORD - Phyl and John. Love and congratulations on your 50th Anniversary from Robert, Bridget, Claire and Cindy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEADLE - Jimmy J. Jeremy's family would like to express their sincere appreciation, for the kindness and caring shown to him by his many friends, during his recent illness. Thank yous for the many beautiful flowers and messages of sympathy, and special thanks to the very dedicated staff of the Charing Cross Intensive Care Unit.

BIRTHDAYS

ROBINSON Sarah Happy 21st Birthday Jolene. Love Mum and Dad. (Only joking!)

FLATSHARE

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W1 O.R. £85pw & 5 hrs Secy Needed WP & basic bookkeeping for Dr. 01468 180846

SERVICES

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FLIRT PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are young or under a young person over (18) 01202 718909.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BECHSTEIN concert grand piano in black, 9 ft Early 20s. £1,200. 0171 9589602.

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OBITUARIES

MARION WILBERFORCE

Marion Wilberforce, aviatrix, died on December 17 aged 93. She was born on July 22, 1902.



The first of the "Atagirls", Marion Wilberforce second from left, standing

ONE of the first eight women pilots to be recruited by the Air Transport Auxiliary in 1940, Marion Wilberforce was the quintessential "Atagirl": resourceful, daring and skilled, with more than a touch of eccentricity in her make-up. The ATA's role, largely unsung at the time against the backdrop of the desperate battles taking place in the air throughout the summer and autumn of 1940, was the ferrying of new aircraft from the factories to the squadrons which needed them.

This work was originally done by men, generally pilots who were not fully fit for operational flying and were hence regarded as "Ancient and Tattered Airmen". Besides, at the outbreak of war the prejudice against women flyers was strong. No one thought of using the pool of feminine talent which had been built up in that golden age of private flying between the wars, when handsome and well-to-do young women gallivanted about the skies of Europe, dropping in on garden parties in Berlin, Stockholm and Budapest. Continental aero clubs threw lavish summer entertainments and the Burgomaster of many a central European capital marshalled the full resources of his entertainment budget to make sure that his fair guests took home good reports of their treatment.

Even after war broke out and the losses of good aircrew in such futile operations as the leaflet drops over Germany (in unarmed Blenheim bombers) began to mean that the fitness state of the Ancient and Tattered Airmen had to be revised upwards so that they could fly operational sorties, there was still a reluctance to employ manifestly well-qualified women. Once the barriers had been broken down, however, and women were admitted to ferrying duties, they soon proved their worth.

Flexibility was the hallmark of these pilots. If, for example, an ATA aviatrix qualified on Class 4 (twin-engined) aircraft, she would be expected to cope with anything from that "flying coffin" the Hampden, through the nimble Mosquito to (later in the war) the twin-jet Meteor interceptor. And many a bomber squadron commander awaiting a new delivery to replace operational losses was astonished, as a Lancaster bomber rolled to a halt on his runway, to see a petite, svelte figure climb from the cockpit, take off her flying helmet and shake out her hair.

Marion Wilberforce was one of seven children of John Ogilvie-Forbes, the 9th Laird of Boyndlie, Aberdeenshire, and a man of renowned and granite-like dourness. Originally intended for the Anglican priesthood, he had converted to Roman Catholicism and became a papal Privy Chamberlain. She received her education from French governesses and at the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Stony Stratford. From there she went to Somerville College, Oxford, where she took a degree in agriculture in 1922.

At Oxford she took a keen interest in sports: she was an accomplished exponent of ju-jitsu and was a member of the women's mountaineering team. She also acted in the productions of the university's French Club.

In 1932 she married Robert Wilberforce, although this union was not always a foregone conclusion. Her husband-to-be was for some time undecided between the state of matrimony and a vocation to the priesthood, eventually deciding to test the strength of the latter by spending six months in a monastery. When this period was over Marion was at the monastery gates to collect him. She, meanwhile, had begun a career in London, on a field sports magazine, and began flying, encouraged by her two brothers. Her own first aircraft was a de Havilland Cirrus Moth from which she graduated to the Hornet Moth. In these aircraft, which she used to ferry livestock to and from her Essex farm, Nevendon Manor, sometimes from as far afield as Hungary, she had notched up 900 hours by 1940.

From 1929 she had also taken a keen interest in the work of the Fairbridge charity whose aim was to take orphaned children from overcrowded British cities and find them homes in agricultural communities in the Dominions. In the late 1920s and early 1930s she visited Canada and Australia to look over farm schools there. She continued her involvement in the Fairbridge Farm Schools until late in her life. Having no children herself, she often had Fairbridge children to stay with her for extended periods.

When the ATA, which was formed on the outbreak of war, began to find itself short of pilots, at first the option of using women was not even considered, and the RAF went so far as to hire foreign aviators — at greatly inflated wages. Then resistance to the obvious solution finally crumbled and the first eight women — including Marion Wilberforce — were recruited, in January 1940. This was done in a blaze of publicity — largely unsought — which was not entirely beneficial. In Germany, Lord Haw-Haw made much snide propaganda from the fact that the British were apparently reduced to sending their womenfolk "to fly vicious fighting planes which these unnatural and decadent women will doubtless enjoy". And in RAF messes the reception was often little more sympathetic.

At first Atagirls were not permitted to fly combat aircraft, but that bureaucratic rule soon became untenable, and by mid-1941 Marion Wilberforce was piloting Hurricanes and Spitfires. From fighters she graduated to twin-engined bombers and then to the four-engined Lancaster, Halifax and Stirling. By the end of the war she had flown well over a hundred different types of aircraft. In a single day she might ferry as many as four different aircraft.

It was very far from being routine work: the pilot had to do all her own navigation and the requirement to keep the embattled squadrons replenished meant that deliveries had to be undertaken in all weathers: cloud, rain, fog, snow and treacherous icing conditions. The celebrated prewar aviatrix Amy Johnson, who had joined ATA, perished in just such circumstances when the engine of an aircraft she was delivering failed and she came down in the freezing waters of the Thames.

In addition to flying, Marion Wilberforce was deputy commanding officer and then CO of the Hatfield Ferry Pool, and in 1943 became commander of No 12 Ferry Pool at Cosford. The extra administration this involved meant little abatement in the volume of her flying duties.

At the end of the war she declined appointment as MBE, but carried on flying in her Hornet Moth biplane. The skies had by then become more regulated, yet her exploits were almost redolent of the more happy-go-lucky age of aviation in which she had grown up. She flew about the British Isles visiting friends and then, if bored, might decide to lunch in Luxembourg or take in an evening performance at the Vienna Staatsoper. Once, she strayed out of Austrian into Czechoslovak air space, drawing fire from trigger-happy frontier anti-aircraft batteries. On another occasion she visited her brother Neil in Moscow, flying herself to Helsinki but being compelled to be a passenger for the remainder of the journey.

Only in her eighties did she give up flying. By that time, reluctantly, she had to get rid of the second of her Hornet Moths. Originally bought from an Aberdeen butcher, it found a home with an Australian sheep farmer.

When her husband died in 1984, Marion Wilberforce returned to Boyndlie to live with her brother.

GORDON ADAM

Gordon Adam, a former general manager and director of Barclays Bank, died in Switzerland on December 27 aged 68. He was born on December 21, 1927.



A QUIETLY prominent personality in the discreet profession of banking, Gordon Adam followed an eminent career with Barclays. As he rose through the ranks, his patent integrity and conscientiousness combined with a substantial experience in both the UK and in the international arm of the bank earned him a position as a director of the UK bank, as well as chairman of Barclays International Development Fund, and chairman of the International Trust Group.

David Stuart Gordon Adam was born in Belfast, but spent his early years in Canada where his father, an Ulsterman, was working as a naval architect. He was educated at Upper Canada College, before returning to the UK to take law degrees at Queen's University, Belfast, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Winning an exhibition and later a scholarship, he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1951. But he left the law after extended service as a judge's marshal with two outstanding Queen's Bench judges, Mr Justice Hilbery and Mr Justice Streatfield. After two years, 1952-53, at the War Office he turned to banking, joining Barclays in 1954.

After a year's grounding experience at head office he was sent to Southern and Central Africa with the international arm of the bank before returning to a succession of increasingly more senior posts in Leeds and Manchester. He became a general manager in 1968.

Harvard Business School followed in the spring of 1969, and in his subsequent career with Barclays he filled a number of prominent positions in which, always seeking the highest standards himself, he exacted them too from those with whom he worked. Adam also served for five years on the council of the CBI and, after retirement from Barclays, became a director of the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher & Co in 1989.

Adam was equally active outside his banking career, notably as a governor of Wycombe Abbey School for 20 years and chairman of its council from 1981 to 1991. His term of office was marked by a steady progress, both academic and administrative.

Adam is survived by his wife Rosanne, and by their two sons and daughter.

KENNETH NEVE

Kenneth Neve, OBE, industrialist and vintage car enthusiast, died on January 1 aged 84. He was born on April 19, 1911.

THE patrician figure of Kenneth Neve cut a familiar dash at vintage motor racing events. Whether picknicking from an ample Fortnum's hamper, or sipping champagne on the running-boards of his Rolls-Royce Phantom II, he was an enthusiastic presence at the race track. But Neve was not just a collector and spectator, he was also an active competitor, restoring defunct motor cars to roadworthiness as well as redesigning them to his own specifications.

After an apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong, Neve joined the firm of Turner & Newell, then asbestos manufacturers, and remained there until his retirement in 1972. That same year he was appointed OBE for his services to exports. But in his spare time he indulged his passion for vintage motor cars. Before the war he raced at Brooklands, at first on a home-made motorcycle, then with a Brough Superior, the finest motorbike of its day, with a powerful twin JAP engine capable of reaching speeds of up to 100mph.

In 1935 Neve branched out, turning to cars of many makes. As a member of the Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) he took part in speed and mud trials with a 30-98 Vauxhall, a fine machine with open body, stretching bonnet and sweeping mudguards, then considered one of Britain's top sports cars. He drove this car everywhere, and his daughter was always to recall annual holidays to Cheshire and Cornwall when she would be squashed into a small sideways-facing seat at the back and instructed to keep an eye peeled for predatory policemen while a trailer carrying another car bounced and jumped along behind.

Neve also raced a grand prix Bugatti as well as rebuilding a Frazer Nash, a fine old car which was driven by chain rather than shaft drive. He adapted it to improve its roadholding speed and performance.

After the war Neve was one of the first people to take single cylinder motorcycle engines and incorporate them in cars. It was a relatively cheap way of indulging a passion for racing, and though Neve was an amateur, professionals such as Stirling Moss were later to take a leaf out of his book and follow this jokey but practical idea.

But Neve's favourite racing car was a 1914 TT Humber which he found laid up in Wales, and restored to working order, running it in Edwardian events of the VSCC for some 35 years.

In 1960 Neve's enthusiasm for vintage cars was recognised by his election to the presidency of the VSCC for



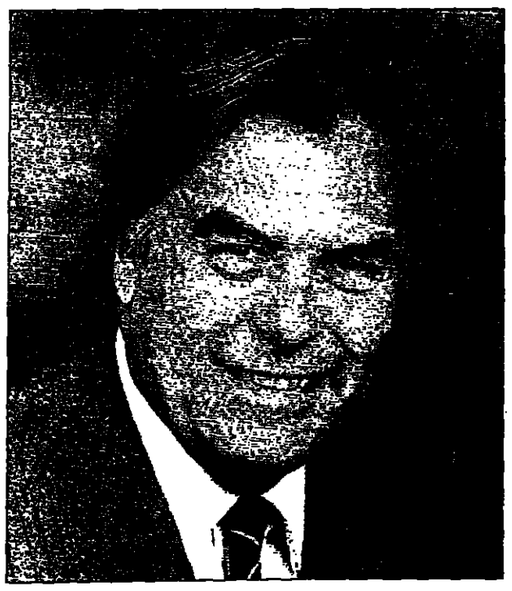
three years and, though his interests always remained more in the workshop than in administration, he proved himself a meticulous historian of motoring.

In 1977, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, Neve re-enacted the 1911 Rolls-Royce run in top-gear from London to Edinburgh. He fully rebuilt the 1911 car himself and drove from one capital to the other.

Neve set down his recollections of his lifetime hobby in his book *A Bit Behind The Times* (1988). In his last years he worked to complete a 4ft model of a steam tug boat which he had begun in 1929 but never finished.

His wife Jo, whom he married in 1938, predeceased him. He is survived by a daughter.

GEOFFREY PARDOE



Geoffrey Pardoe, consultant engineer, died of a heart attack on January 3 aged 67. He was born on November 2, 1928.

FOR almost 40 years Geoffrey Pardoe was a leading figure in space exploration, never faltering in the belief that space offered great opportunities, most of which were being missed by the British Government. He was project manager of Blue Streak, a missile that worked well but was cancelled on the ground of cost, and which later formed the first stage of an abortive attempt to develop a European satellite launcher.

Later he became known to a wider public through his commentaries on the Apollo space launches and articles, including some in *The Times*, arguing for a coherent space policy.

Pardoe was no narrow specialist. In 1986 he was appointed chairman of the Watt Committee on Energy, a charity formed to promote the improved understanding of energy generation and use. He participated in many professional bodies, where his convivial manner and clarity of expression made him a natural leader.

Geoffrey Pardoe was educated at Wanstead County High School, London University and Loughborough College of Technology (as it then was) where he was a successful athlete. He began his career at Armstrong Whitworth, where he was responsible for the first British guided missile, Seasfug. He moved to de Havilland Propellers in 1951, where he was in charge of aerodynamics and flight analysis of Firestreak and other air-to-air weapons.

In 1957 he was appointed project manager of Blue Streak, a ballistic missile powered by Rolls-Royce rocket engines. After the cancellation of the programme, Britain attempted to salvage some benefit by proposing Blue Streak as the first stage of a launcher to be built by the seven-nation European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO).

France provided the second stage, Germany the third, Italy the test satellites, Belgium the ground station and The Netherlands the telemetry links. What followed was a tragi-comic series of failures as one by one the different stages — though not Blue Streak — failed to operate. Finally, after the third stage had failed in the final launch attempt at Woomera, the UK withdrew.

Geoffrey Pardoe bitterly regretted the decision. For the sake of saving the ELDO contribution of £9 million a year, barely more than was spent annually on fireworks, he feared that, "we shall be out of any real space programmes for ever".

Pardoe became chief executive director of the British Space Development Company and subsequently formed his own consultancy, General Technology Systems, based first in Brentford and later at Brunel Science Park in Uxbridge. GTS worked in more than 60 countries, in the fields of aerospace, energy, informational technology, communications, microelectronics, defence, remote sensing, innovation and technology transfer.

Pardoe was always eager to communicate knowledge, not only to his peers but also to a general audience, and for many years was the first person journalists thought of when they needed guidance over space stories. He campaigned consistently for a British presence in space, regretting that the decisions taken in the 1960s had handed leadership in Europe to the French.

Over the years he appeared in nearly 2,000 radio and television interviews in several countries — he was fluent in French and German. Among his publications, *The Future of Space Technology*, published in 1984, will perhaps be best remembered.

As president of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1984-85, he was appointed the society's representative on the Watt committee, of which he soon became chairman. He was active in many other organisations, including the National Industrial Space Committee, and he was a former president of the Space Education Trust.

In all these bodies and others, he argued that those with knowledge and ability have the duty to use them for the solution of problems. Despite the many frustrations of championing ideas that successive governments found unpalatable or too expensive, he remained cordial and optimistic. He died suddenly and unexpectedly when on a business trip to Kansas.

He leaves a widow, Patricia, and a son and daughter.

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ON THIS DAY

January 12, 1861

Two forces of nature which together kept racegoers at home combined to bring out the skaters and sliders.

CHANGE OF WEATHER.

Last night skating on the Serpentine was again carried on with great spirit. There was a display of fireworks and various novel amusements. The ice was stated to be nearly 13 inches thick. There is to be a fair on the Serpentine on Monday night, unless the thaw which commenced yesterday should happily put a stop to the late severity of the season. All the parks were crowded yesterday, but no accident of consequence is reported. The weather at Worcester, which has been most intense, appeared yesterday to be changing, a partial thaw having set in. The Severn is still frozen up above Worcester, all navigation stopped, and a most remarkable spectacle has been presented nightly during the week on the Worcester Race-course. This large meadow, which lies on the banks of the Severn, was flooded at the end of last week, and froze to a considerable thickness. The water receding beneath it left the ice upon the grass and a safe arena for the skaters and sliders. These have mustered in great numbers, and thousands of persons have been disporting themselves upon its surface by torchlight. At the time of writing the ice is covered with thousands of people. Here, as elsewhere, a great many persons have been thrown out of employ by the severity of the weather, builders, carpenters, gardeners, watermen, and other trades having their occupations suspended, and much distress is the result. To alleviate this, funds are being raised, and coal and soup provided for the poor. Scarcely any change has taken place in the state of the weather in the eastern counties, with the exception of dense fogs in the evening succeeding to very heavy atmosphere during the day. The thermometer has in no instance since Thursday, that we have heard of, risen above freezing-point. All the rivers are completely blocked, and trade at the ports of Maldon, Colchester, Ipswich, Woodbridge, and other places, is almost suspended, the owners of vessels preferring to lie at anchor rather than run any risks. The consequence has been a very considerable advance in the price of seaborne coals, thereby adding another evil to the already multiplied sufferings of the poor. It is now found that large bodies of agricultural labourers must seek relief in Union houses, tenant farmers most reluctantly parting with them in consequence of their inability to follow any out-door occupation. New discoveries of cases of most intense suffering are being made daily, and already the Union houses are rapidly filling.

صكزامن الأصل

NEWS

Thatcher on Tory unpopularity

■ Baroness Thatcher delivered a punishing blow to John Major's attempts to bind the Conservative Party together when she scorned the "one-nation" Tory tradition and accused his Government of betraying the middle classes.

The Prime Minister's hopes of a new year truce between his party's warring factions were blown apart as his predecessor said that the party was in trouble because Tory performance and policies had not lived up to its principles..... **Pages 1, 2, 9**

Mitterrand families stand together

■ The two families of François Mitterrand were united for the first time at his funeral, in accordance with his last wishes. Anne Pingeot, the former French President's mistress, and their daughter Mazarine, stood alongside Danielle Mitterrand, her two sons and grandchildren..... **Pages 1, 10**

Juice price held

Britons were spared a 30p-a-litre rise in the price of fresh orange juice after the European Commission answered a Government appeal by postponing a tariff on imported oranges..... **Page 1**

Royal fan arrested

Bernard Quinn, an obsessed fan of the Princess Royal, was arrested in Liverpool last night 25 minutes before she was due to attend an official engagement in the city..... **Page 1**

Britons kinapped

Troops were sent into the Indonesian jungle to rescue four British biologists kidnapped by separatist guerillas..... **Page 3**

Carling split

The marriage of Will Carling, the England rugby captain, and his wife Julia is to end after just 15 months together..... **Page 3**

Tornado crashes

Two more RAF crewmen escaped when another Tornado crashed during a training flight in Germany. It was the third Tornado lost in two days after a mid-air collision on Wednesday..... **Page 5**

Branson challenger

Richard Branson faces a new challenger in the race to become the first balloonist to fly round the world. Henk Brink, a 52-year-old Dutch helicopter pilot and adventurer, expects to launch his attempt from Nijmegen..... **Page 5**

NHS under strain

Hospitals are cracking under the strain of a surge in emergency admissions that has caused casualty units to close and patients to be turned away, doctors' leaders said..... **Page 6**

Medical Briefing

A sensitive scalp and pain behind the eye may be a sign of a condition that must be treated immediately, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford..... **Page 7**

Ducks spared

Plans to cull Britain's most notorious duck are to be abandoned because ministers fear the sight of dead birds will infuriate animal lovers..... **Page 8**

Clinton 'bankruptcy'

President and Mrs Clinton's legal costs of £1.36 million in fighting the Whitewater and Paula Jones cases have put them "on a collision course with bankruptcy", said *Money* magazine..... **Page 11**

Patten's plea

Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law..... **Page 12**

German gloom

Fresh proof of trouble in the German economy increased a wave of pessimism over the prospects for achieving the launch of a single European currency... **Page 13**

Sex Pistols plan a comeback

■ The Sex Pistols, the spitting standard-bearers of punk who incited a generation to rebel against their elders and to reject ageing pop stars, are threatening to regroup just as they are turning 40. The 1970s band, vilified for describing the monarchy as a fascist regime, hope to begin a world tour in America in the spring..... **Page 7**



François Mitterrand's daughter Mazarine is kissed by her mother Anne Pingeot at the funeral of the former French President. **Pages 1, 10**

BUSINESS

Woolwich: More than three and a half million savers and borrowers will receive average payouts of £1,000 when the third largest building society becomes a stock market company in 1997..... **Page 21**

Economy: British manufacturing activity was stagnant in November, prompting speculations on another rate cut..... **Page 21**

Granada: Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager that helped Granada win LWT, has been buying more Forte shares prompting speculation that Granada is likely to win..... **Page 21**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 16.6 to 3654.9. Sterling's index fell from 83.1 to 83.0 after a fall from $1.5452 to $1.5450 and from DM2.2225 to DM2.2212..... **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: England won the second one-day international in Bloemfontein, beating South Africa by five wickets with just 10 balls to spare..... **Page 40**

Football: Kevin Keegan, the bookmakers' favourite to succeed Terry Venables as England coach, ruled himself out of the running after speaking to his club's chairman, Sir John Hall..... **Page 40**

Rugby union: France have made six changes for their opening five nations' championship match against England..... **Page 38**

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, continued his impressive build-up to the Australian Open by reaching the semi-finals of the Peters International tournament in Sydney..... **Page 37**

Spanish import: The British, it seems, are just mad about flamenco. And it's never been more ambitious than in a new — and not altogether successful — show at Sadler's Wells..... **Page 32**

New albums: David Sinclair in praise of *Ocean of Sound*, a stunning exploration of the natural and manufactured sounds of music..... **Page 33**

Country lads: Who ever heard of a country band coming from Florida? Well, the Mavericks do and they are now the Country Music Association's Vocal Group of the Year..... **Page 33**

Tourist art: Christie's mounts a fascinating new show that portrays Brazil through the eyes of early European visitors..... **Page 34**

A royal story: The biographer, Sarah Bradford, talks to Valerie Grove about the Queen. In celebration of Her Majesty's 70th birthday this spring, Ms Bradford is publishing a biography..... **Page 14**

Big smoke: In America the sale of cigars is increasing and the most surprising aspect is that it is now women who most enjoy puffing on long, expensive cigars..... **Page 15**

Who's in: Those who didn't make it again will be affecting disdain but most are delighted to be asked to join the great and good in *Who's Who*..... **Page 15**

Educated guess: Should students pay more for higher education? At present the loans system is not producing a return for the Student Loans Company..... **Page 30**

Until China has a government that is accountable to its citizens, its reputation and its people will be vulnerable to reports like the children in these orphanages
— Wall Street Journal

If this is what *The New York Times* means by global warming, well, you can imagine there are lots of people who would hate to see what global cooling feels like. Yes, a few more weeks of warming like this one, and everyone may freeze to death *— Washington Times*





TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ONE MAN'S MEAT**
Richard Girling on fact and fantasy in the battle for our stomachs and minds

■ **BOOKS**
Julian Barnes on his book, *Cross Channel*; Valerie Grove's life of Dodie Smith

FEATURES

Preview: Paula Dixon's life was saved by brilliant improvisation in mid-air. *Operation Coathanger* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on the agonies of a brain-damaged son..... **Page 39**

COMMENT

The chief stoker

The Prime Minister might have expected worse. Margaret Thatcher did not overpraise her successor; but there was no indication of burying him..... **Page 17**

Lack of slack

A 65-year-old man dies in hospital in Scarborough after being helicoptered 80 miles from Bradford. Must NHS reforms mean risk?..... **Page 17**

Unavailable Venables

No theme will be discussed in pubs tonight with as much verve as that of Terry Venables. Is he right? Is he wrong? Should he? Shouldn't he? Why? Why not?..... **Page 17**

PAUL BARKER

If you want to peer into what the social investigators of Victorian England called "the abyss", you must go into the dark heart of our cities. And, in particular, London. This is today's most painful divide..... **Page 16**

BERNARD LEVIN

We cannot measure, let alone understand, what a life in the Third Reich meant. When you and I can understand it, then, but only then, may we rebuke Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. I think the rebuke will be some time coming..... **Page 16**

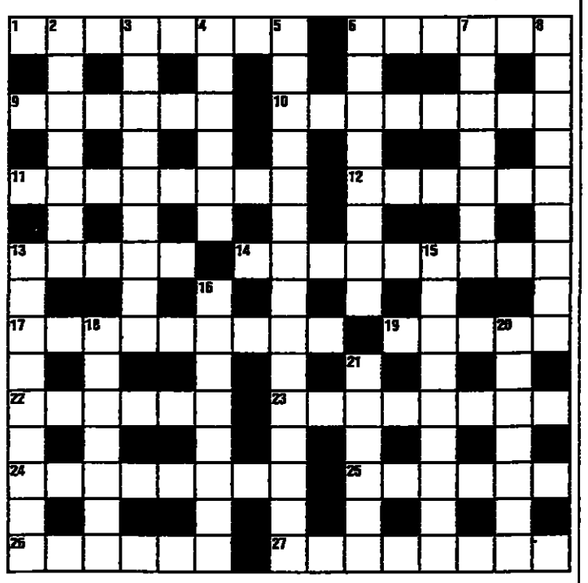
PETER RIDDELL

Lady Thatcher offered a myth of betrayal by those in office every bit as politically explosive as that offered by Tony Benn after Labour lost in 1979. The difference is that the infighting has started before, rather than after, the party has lost office..... **Page 9**

Marion Wilberforce, aviator; **Gordon Adam**, former general manager and director of Barclays Bank; **Kenneth Neve**, vintage car enthusiast; **Geoffrey Pardoe**, consultant engineer..... **Page 19**

China's orphanages; happiness and winning the lottery; Charles Darwin's finch..... **Page 17**

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ACROSS

1 Habituate to charge reduced by male (8).
6 Bog plant's captivated artist (6).
9 Mother bird gets wet (6).
10 Something Joseph achieved, finding rooms not free (2).
11 Bob, in the old days, showing good manners (8).
12 Some hawthorn at Easter is flowery (6).
13 I'll be found in long-established secret society (5).
14 One keeps to the bed mostly, taking part by oneself (5,4).
17 Celtic chief found prison to be boring (9).
19 Lower in volume, as being very loud (5).
22 Virtually nothing received by charity by end of Lent (6).
23 Way to prepare potatoes and game in appropriate container (8).
24 Arrange old musical item (8).
25 An epic narration, explaining Italian developments originally (6).
26 Cold and damp, but spacious for audience? (6).
27 Archdeacon's gone shakily round for service (8).

DOWN

2 Outcry from class over affair (7).
3 Advantage drug's given to labourer (5,4).
4 Ostentatiously brilliant, yet unusually silent (6).
5 Easy profit of monopoly — erred breaking it up (5,3,3,4).
6 Illogical calling lands me in wrong minor suit, initially (3).
7 Fruit bringing Cockney disruption and bother (7).
8 Son unmusical? Altogether useless at audition (5-4).
13 He takes steps to accentuate the rhythm (3-6).
15 It may get us nearest being drunk (9).
16 See flower sheltered from this wind (8).
18 Candidate getting no marks in English, repeatedly (7).
20 Manipulate in rage (7).
21 Spot's bark (6).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

Solution to Puzzle No 20,061

S	H	U	F	F	L	E		B	I	G	O	T	R	Y
O		M		I		M	A	R	R	I				
U	R	B	A	N		M	U	S	C	O	V	I	T	E
E		R		G		A	K		V		L			
A	M	A	Z	E	D		R	E	M	E	D	I	E	D
M		G		R		P		T			A			
I	N	E	R	T		R	O	C	K	S	O	L	I	D
S			I		O		A		E			E		
H	O	S	E	P	I	P	E	S		R	O	W	A	N
	H			R		E		I	A		T			
M	I	R	E	P	O	I	X		P	A	P	Y	R	I
E		E		E		S		L		S		S		
A	N	E	C	D	O	T	A	L		I	D	I	O	T
T		K		A		O		S		D		R		
H	U	S	T	L	E	R		B	A	T	T	E	R	Y

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Glouces,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Flds,Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	701
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks,Berks,Oxon	702
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	703
M25 London Orbital only	726
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	711
West Country	712
Wales	713
Midlands	714
East Anglia	715
North-west England	716
North-east England	717
Scotland	718
Northern Ireland	719

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 4C (39F); highest rainfall, Camborne, Cornwall, 1.1in; highest sunshine Stornoway, Western Isles, 2.7hr

WHERE ARE YOU DOING THIS CROSSWORD?
If you're doing it at home because you're off sick, WPA's Health & Sickness Plan could be paying you up to £40 a week. Yet subscriptions start at just £1.02 a week.
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FREECALL 0500 43 93 23
QUOTING SCK95

FORECAST

General: Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a lot of cloud, with a little sunshine. There will be some mostly light rain or drizzle over eastern and northern Scotland, while heavier outbreaks of rain will move from Northern Ireland into southern and western Scotland during the day.

England and Wales will be showery, with brighter spells, especially over eastern England where it will be mostly dry during the daylight hours. In the south and west, though, some heavy and lengthy showers are likely. It will again be mild but quite windy

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England: bright spells; mostly dry, but showers after dark. Wind fresh southeasterly. Max 10C (50F)

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland: bright at times, but showery; some heavy and lengthy spells of rain spreading from west. Wind fresh, perhaps strong, southeast to southerly. Max 10C (50F).

E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N: bright, but some showers, especially later. Wind mainly fresh southeasterly. Max 9C (48F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: fairly cloudy, a little rain. Heavier showery outbreaks in evening. Wind fresh, perhaps strong, southeasterly. Max 7C (45F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: bright spells and showers. A wet evening. Wind fresh, perhaps strong, southeasterly. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: remaining mild and unsettled.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm; b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

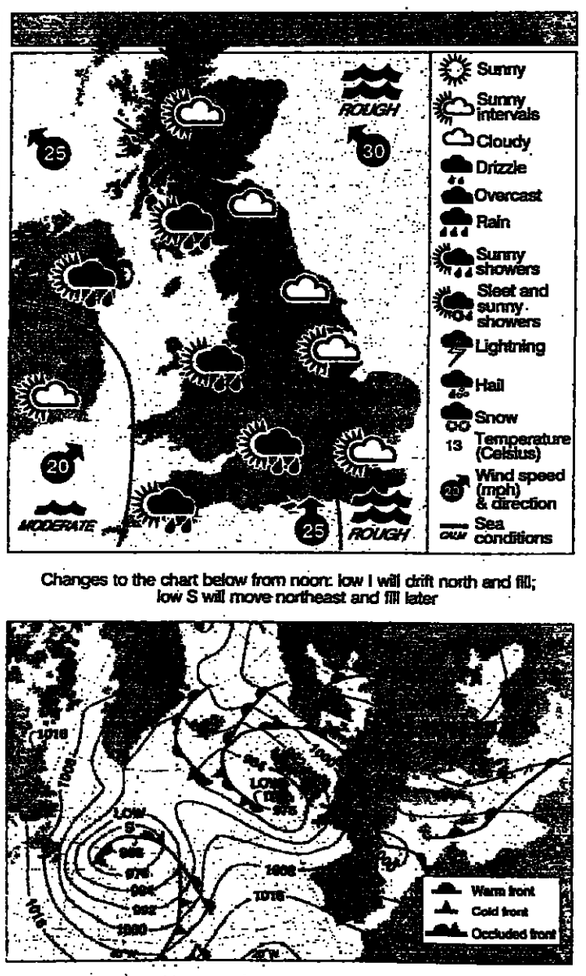
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.07	7	45	r	London	-	0.02	10	50	r
Aberystwyth	-	0.04	9	48	r	Lowestoft	0.2	0.01	8	46	r
Aberporth	-	-	8	46	r	Manchester	-	0.01	9	48	r
Avonmouth	-	0.06	7	45	sh	Margate	-	0.06	9	48	r
Belfast	-	0.10	8	46	r	Minehead	0.1	0.30	11	52	r
Birmingham	-	0.07	8	46	r	Morecambe	-	0.03	8	46	r
Bognor R	-	0.08	9	48	r	Newcastle	X				
Bournemouth	-	0.15	10	50	sh	Newquay	2.2	0.71	12	54	sh
Bristol	-	0.08	11	52	r	Norwich	-	0.02	9	48	c
Buxton	-	0.03	6	43	r	Nottingham	X				
Cardiff	-	0.11	9	48	r	Oxford	-	0.06	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	-	-				Penzance	2.7	0.90	13	55	sh
Colwyn	r	0.03	8	46	c	Plymouth	X				
Dover	-	-				Poole	-	0.10	10	50	r
East Coast						Prestatyn	X	0.03	9	48	r
Eastbourne	-	0.02	10	50	du	Ross-o-wye	-	0.33	9	48	r
Edinburgh	-	-	9	48	d	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.05	6	43	r	Salcombe	X				
Falmouth	-	0.33	11	52	r	Sandown	-	0.02	9	48	sh
Falmouth	3.5	0.35	10	54	s	Saunton Snd	1.5	0.17	11	52	s
Fishguard	-	0.17	9	48	r	Scarboro'	X				
Folkestone	0.3	0.05	9	48	r	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	-	-	3	43	r	Shrewsbury	-	0.04	8	46	r
Glenmorey	-	0.39	12	54	sh	Skegness	X				
Hastings	-	0.07	9	48	c	Southend	0.1	0.03	8	46	sh
Hayling I	-	0.07	9	48	r	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	-	0.07	9	48	r	Southsea	-	0.08	9	48	sh
Hove	-	-	10	50	sh	St Ives	X				
Hunstanton	0.2		9	48	c	Stornoway	3.7	0.02	8	46	b
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	-	0.09	10	50	sh
Isle of Man	-	0.08	8	46	r	Teignmouth	0.3	0.48	12	54	r
Jersey	0.2	0.11	10	50	sh	Tenby	X				
Kinloss	0.2	-	8	46	r	Tiree	-	0.02	9	48	r
Leeds	-	0.02	8	46	r	Torquay	0.2	0.50	12	54	r
Lerwick	-	0.09	5	41	r	Tynemouth	X				
Lyneham	-	-	7	45	r	Ventnor	-	0.03	9	48	d
Llandrindod	-	0.07	10	50	r	West-s-mare	X				
Liverpool	-	0.02	8	46	r	Weymouth	-	0.13	11	52	r

ABROAD

Ajaccio	12	54	f	Corfu	15	59	f	Madrid	8	46	f
Alicante	15	61	f	C'phagn	2	36	c	Majorca	15	59	f
Amsterdm	7	45	r	Dublin	7	45	r	Malaga	16	61	c
Algiers	16	61	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	f	Malta	17	63	f
Amsterdm	7	45	c	Faro	17	63	f	Melb'rne	21	70	f
Athens	13	55	f	Florence	13	55	f	Mexico C	18	64	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Frankfurt	3	37	c	Miami	22	72	s
Barcelna	16	61	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Milan	7	45	sg
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	8	46	s	Montreal	-15	5	s
Barcelona	13	55	f	Gibraltar	17	63	r	Moscow	-9	16	s
Beirut	15	59	f	Helsinki	-4	25	sn	Munich	4	39	s
Belfast	7	45	r	Hong K	18	64	s	N Delhi	13	55	fg
Belgrade	9	48	c	Innsbruck	14	57	f	N York	-3	27	f
Berlin	1	34	f	Istanbul	9	48	f	Nairobi	27	81	f
Bermuda	15	59	c	Jeddah	25	77	f	Naples	16	61	f
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	26	77	f	Nice	13	55	f
Bordeaux	13	55	f	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	1	34	d
Brussels	3	37	f	L Angels	23	73	s	Paris	8	46	f
Budapest	5	41	f	L Palmas	20	68	c	Peking	5	41	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Le Touqet	8	46	f	Perth	29	84	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Lisbon	16	61	f	Prague	0	32	c
Chch'church	19	66	c	Locarno	6	43	d	Reykjavik	4	39	s
Chicago	-3	27	sn	Luxembg	6	43	f	Rio de J	26	79	f
Cologne	5	41	s	Luxor	22	72	s	Riyadh	18	64	f

Rome	15	59	f	S Fr'sco	11	52	s				
S Paulo	30	86	c	Salzburg	0	32	f				
Santiago	29	77	s	Seoul	2	36	s				
Sing'por	25	77	r	St'kholm	0	32	c				
Strasb'rg	3	37	fg	Sydney	21	70	c				
Tangier	17	63	c	Tel Aviv	15	59	f				
Tenerife	21	70	c	Tokyo	11	52	c				
Toronto	-8	18	f	Tunis	13	55	r				
Valencia	14	57	f	Vanc'ver	10	50	f				
Venice	13	55	c	Vienna	3	37	c				
Warsaw	5	41	s	Zurich	1	34	fg				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will drift north and fill; low S will move northeast and fill later

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:13	6.83	5:55	6.68	Leith	6:31	4.88	6:48	4.85
Aberdeen	5:12	3.81	5:19	3.92	Liverpool	2:42	8.35	2:55	8.36
Avonmouth	10:46	11.86	11:08	11.27	Lowestoft	0:48	2.43	11:09	2.13
Belfast	2:31	3.13	2:55	3.43	Margate	3:16	4.46	3:47	4.26
Cardiff	10:26	10.83	10:50	10.29	Milford Haven	9:55	6.09	10:17	5.81
Devonport	9:23	4.92	9:47	4.68	Newquay	8:51	5.95	9:15	5.69
Dover	2:23	6.14	2:38	5.93	Oban	9:07	3.59	9:38	3.32
Dublin	3:19	3.58	3:44	3.68	Penzance	8:19	5.07	8:45	4.79
Falmouth	8:36	4.63	8:56	4.36	Portland	9:59	1.73	10:32	1.57
Glasgow	4:47	4.04	4:58	4.51	Portsmouth	2:50	4.43	2:59	4.23
Harwich	3:09	3.73	3:29	3.64	Shoreham	2:30	5.71	2:47	5.57
Holyhead	1:53	3.90	2:08	5.01	Southampton	2:19	4.25	2:35	4.15
Hull	10:01	6.61	10:12	6.77	Swansea	9:55	8.27	10:21	7.85
Ilfracombe	9:34	8.20	9:59	7.86	Tees	7:39	4.64	7:45	4.79
King's Lynn	10:03	5.79	10:24	5.86	Wilton-on-Nze	3:08	4.00	3:39	3.92

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Sun rises: 8.02 am
Sun sets: 4.15 pm
Moon sets: 10.33 am
Moon rises: 11.43 pm

London 4.15 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.25 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 4.05 pm to 8.37 am
Manchester 4.14 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.43 pm to 8.17 am

Last quarter tomorrow.

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